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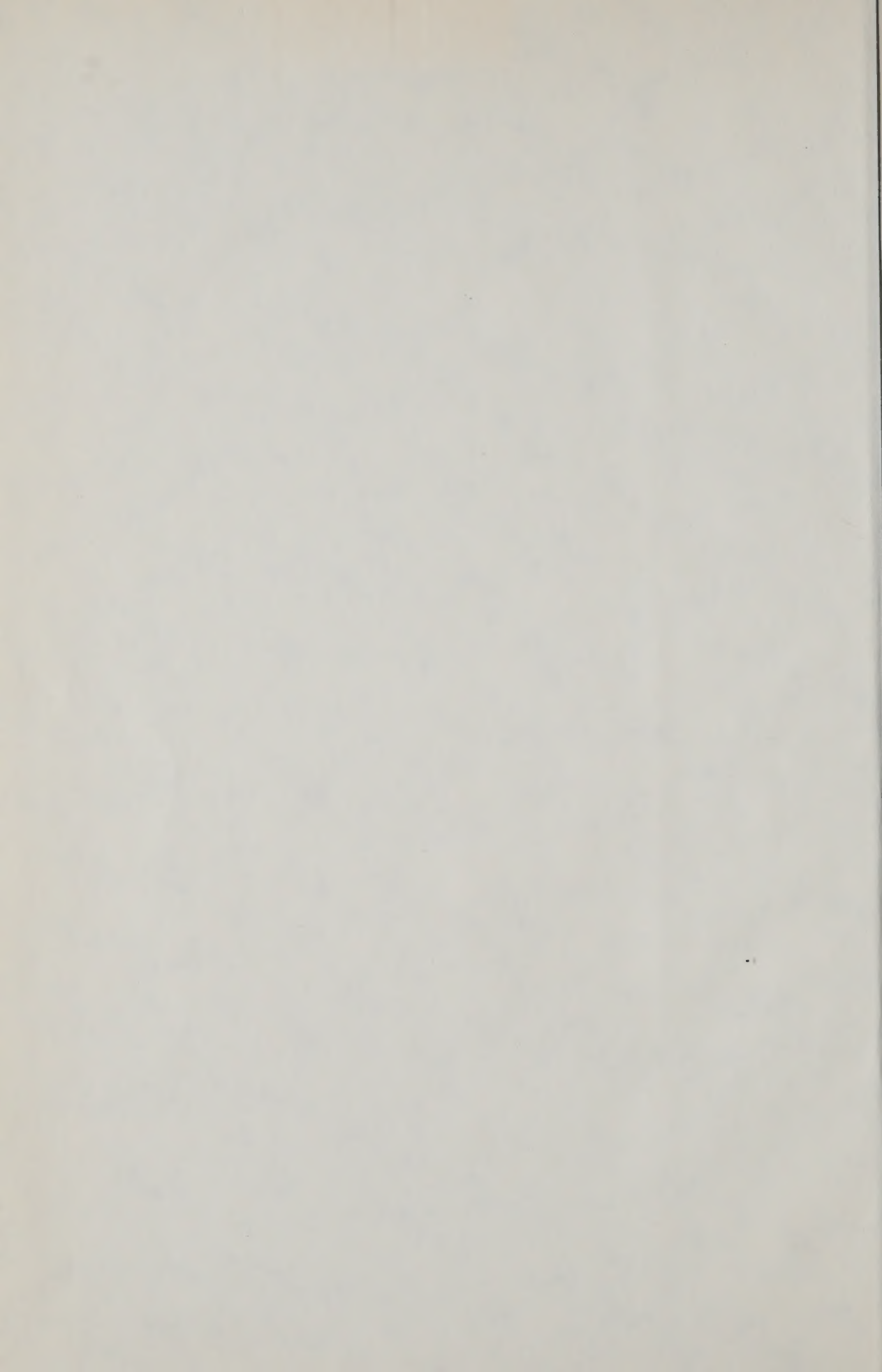
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Atascosa County Centennial

1856 - 1956



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Atascosa County Centennial Association

ATASCOSA COUNTY, TEXAS

Foreword

One hundred years ago, in 1856, a special act of the State Legislature created the County of Atascosa. Known by our fore-fathers for its fertile soil and abundant water supply, the area was pioneered chiefly as an agricultural and cattle-raising area.

The pioneers had hardships aplenty to endure. Savage Indians, crops destroyed, prolonged droughts—these were only a few. It is the courage, tenacity, foresight and zeal with which they met and overcame their difficulties that we wish to honor upon the occasion of this Centennial.

Assuredly, these early residents would not recognize the county as she is today. Some, perhaps, would find it hard to believe that farming has been cut to a minimum; that indeed, the whole economy of the area now rests not upon its agricultural products, but upon a new wealth found beneath the earth—oil.. Nor perhaps would they feel that there is any pioneering left to be done, and, perhaps in their sense of the word, there is not. However, let us hope we still are possessed of the same attributes which helped the pioneer men and women make the county grow and prosper, so that when the next one hundred years have passed, our children and grand-children may look back with as much pride as we do today.

... A Hearty welcome 1437108

To All Centennial Visitors ...

We are proud to be a part of Atascosa County as it celebrates its Centennial, and salute the hardy pioneers who founded Atascosa County in 1856.

We take this occasion to express our appreciation to all who have contributed to the growth and progress of Atascosa County during the past century.

May we, the Commissioners Court, carry on the many fine traditions they established so well.

MATT DAVIS, JR.
County Judge

L. P. BRUNER, Commissioner
Precinct No. 4

J. DAYLON JAMES, Commissioner
Precinct No. 1

CLARENCE LEE, Commissioner
Precinct No. 3

G. M. MANGUM, Commissioner
Precinct No. 2

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of the

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Cecil R. Smith, Jourdanton
Vice-President and Director
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R. A. Royal

Decorations Committee

David Davidson

The Atascosa County Centennial Association will be forever grateful to the hundreds of men, women and children who have put their shoulder to the wheel and helped organize and accomplish the tremendous job of putting on a Centennial. The list on these pages is only a very partial list of those who have helped. Hundreds of names were never in our files and some committees were in the process of completion at the time this book was printed. To all who have helped with the Centennial, whether listed or not, go our sincere thanks.

CENTENNIAL ASSOCIATION.

CONGRATULATIONS!

TO THE PEOPLE OF ATASCOSA COUNTY

On Your

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

Pioneer Flour Mills, established in 1851, salutes the founders of Atascosa County, who cleared the wilderness and laid the foundation for prosperous farms and communities developed by successive generations of hardy and progressive Texans.

1956



1851



As one centenarian to another --- We extend our hand in friendship and cooperation during your coming Century of Progress.

PIONEER FLOUR MILLS

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

SINCE 1851

Salute To Atascosa County

The pioneering work will never be finished.
There will always be "Tomorrow".

o

N. H. (Skeet) ROANE

**CONTRACTOR FOR ALL TYPES OF
BRUSH AND DIRT WORK**

ROOT PLOWING, CHAINING & TANKS.

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CAMPBELLTON, TEXAS

We congratulate the people of Atascosa County for their 100 years of progress.



Pulling together through the years has enabled us to reduce money costs to the lowest in 39 years of making Federal Land Bank Loans.

National Farm Loan Association Of Jourdanton

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E. W. WEHMAN, Director

Atascosa County Centennial

OCTOBER 3, 4, 5, & 6th 1956

CENTENNIAL DAY

WEDNESDAY, October 3, 1956:

- 10:00 A. M. **MAMMOTH PARADE:** Five miles in length, beginning at Jourdanton and ending at Pleasanton—on State Highway 97.
- American Legion Park**
(On Highway #97, between Jourdanton and Pleasanton)
- 12:00 Noon **CENTENNIAL BARBECUE** sponsored by Local Clubs and Organizations. Musical entertainment by Adolph Hofner and his boys.
- 2:00 P. M. **AIR SHOW . . .** By the Air National Guard. Ground to Air Communication.
- 2:30 P. M. **BAND CONCERT . . .** By the Official and Nationally Known W. A. F. Band, directed by Capt. Maybelle Missly.
- 3:30 P. M. **MEMORIAL SERVICE**
- 5:00 P. M. Supper on the grounds. Music by the Black Hill Accordion Band. Teacher and Director—John Starek.
- 7:00 P. M. Gates open for Historical Pageant—"ECHOES OF A CENTURY"
- 8:00 P. M. Premier performance of "ECHOES OF A CENTURY", and Coronation of the Centennial Queen.
- 9:30 P. M. Finale to Pageant: Beautiful and unusual fireworks display.

There will also be a number of Static Displays at the Park during Centennial Day. Among them will be displays of the Army, Navy, Air Force and the 357th Infantry of the 90th Division.

THURSDAY, October 4th, 1956:

OLD TIMERS AND PIONEER RECOGNITION DAY **(Jourdanton)**

Dinner on the grounds, chuck-wagon style.

- 1:00 P. M. Registration of Old Timers and Pioneers—Porch of Museum (Court-house replica). Badges to all over 70 years of age; Coffee while you reminisce with old friends. Registration book to be preserved for 2nd Centennial—100 years hence.

- 2:00 P. M. Tour of Museum and Displays—Agricultural Building Grounds.
- 3:00 P. M. Interviews of Old Timers—swapping of experiences.
- 4:00 P. M. Presentation of awards for Pioneer Man and Pioneer Woman of longest continuous residence in Atascosa County; former residents returning from the greatest distance; north, south, east and west.
(6 awards in all.)
- Judging of Brothers of the Brush and Sister of the Swish—all categories. Sandwiches and refreshments.
- 6:00 P. M. Historical Pageant, "ECHOES OF A CENTURY", Legion Park. Fireworks display.
- 7:00 P. M. Fiddling contest; Music, Singing and Square Dancing.

FRIDAY, October 5th, 1956:

GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY (Pleasanton)

- 2:00 P. M. Latin American Activities and Entertainment.
Band Music, Hat Dances, Singing and Speeches,
City Square, Pleasanton.
- 8:00 P. M. Historical Pageant, "ECHOES OF A CENTURY", Legion Park.
Fireworks Display; Special invitation to Bexar County citizens and military personnel.

SATURDAY, October 6, 1956:

YOUTH DAY (Poteet)

- 10:00 A. M. YOUTH PARADE—Kids Costumes, Pets, Decorated Vehicles, Bicycles, Tricycles, Tractors, Floats, Bands, Music and many other entries.
Silver Dollar Prizes will be awarded in the following cassifications:
1. Best Decorated Vehicle, soap box cart, wagon, tricycle, bicycle.
 2. Children's Costume Division.
 3. Dressed up Pet Division.
- 1:00 P. M. Races, greased pig contest, hog calling contest, Area around City Hall and Fire Department, Poteet.
- 4:00 P. M. Displays, entertainment of all kinds.
- 8:00 P. M. Final performance of Historical Pageant, "ECHOES OF A CENTURY", at Legion Park. Also final judging of Beards, Buttons, Dresses and Bows. Presentation of Awards.

Other Events: Each day ---

1. Replica of First Courthouse and Museum, Jourdanton.
Open daily.
2. Exhibit of Longhorn cattle from Peeler Ranch. Museum area, Jourdanton. Open daily.

Pleasanton Is Atascosa County's Oldest and Fastest Growing City



(Pleasanton's Old Courthouse is now being replaced with
a new City Hall)

PLEASANTON IS A CITY WITH A PAST AND A FUTURE--

Look At Its Record

- 1940 Population 2074
- 1950 " 2903
- 1956 " Estimated 4000
- Hub of Atascosa County's Oil Industry
- Modern 21 bed Hospital
- New \$500,000.00 High-School being built
- Four FHA Housing Subdivisions
- New Businesses — New building

The City of Jourdanton . . .

WELCOMES ALL CENTENNIAL VISITORS
and Extends A Most Cordial Invitation To
MAKE IT YOUR FUTURE HOME



Jourdanton, the County Seat of Atascosa County, has for your service the following:

An abundant supply of state approved water;

An excellent sanitary sewer system;

Natural gas service;

A new three-quarter million dollar school plant; ranking second
highest in the state for schools of its size;

A modern Medical and Surgical Clinic;

Mercy Hospital, a \$375,000.00 Community Hospital;

Jourdanton Recreation Center, serving all organizations and our
young people;

A number of good churches of various denominations;

All this, plus some of the finest and friendliest people in Atascosa
County, makes Jourdanton, the city where you will love to live. Come
and see these advantages; stay and share them with us.

Mitch Thomas, Mayor

J. J. Dornak, Alderman

Alvin Prasifka, Alderman

G. W. Preston, Supt., Maintenance

Frank Bender, Alderman

Roy West, Alderman

Marshal Darby, Alderman

Eva Y. Childress, City Secretary

We Pay Tribute . . .

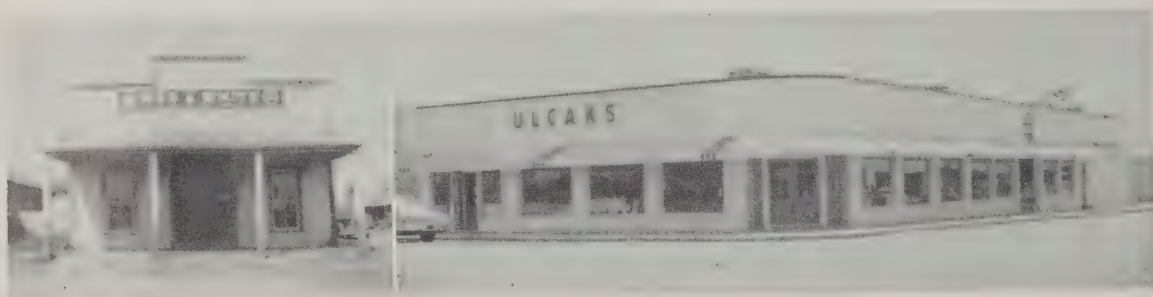
ATASCOSA COUNTY

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1925

1956



ULCAK COMPANY

Red & White Grocery - - - Department Store

Frozen Food Lockers

Necchi - Elna Sewing Machines

Phone PO 9-5351



Jourdanton, Texas



Col. José Antonio Navarro

José Antonio Navarro received a grant of 14,000 acres of land from Mexico in 1828. Through his efforts 15 more grants were made by the Mexican government to Navarro's friends. All of the grants were made along the Atascosa River.

Navarro helped in the organization of the Texas Republic government, being one of the signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence in 1836. He was the first representative from the Bexar District to the Texas State government. In 1856 Navarro, with the help of influential friends, helped in the organization of Atascosa County, giving the land for the first Court House and town in Atascosa County.

After the State's organization, Navarro was the head of a commission to explore the territory of the west owned by Texas. It was known as the Santa Fe expedition. Many of our Texas histories cover the story of this expedition and the courage of Col. José Antonio Navarro.

TO HONOR AND PAY TRIBUTE TO THE HARDY PIONEERS OF ATASCOSA
COUNTY IN THIS CENTENNIAL YEAR OF 1956

First Map of Atascosa County after the early 1900 development.



Compiled by D. W. Cobb, this map was revised and copyrighted in 1931. D. W. Cobb has been with the development from the early time to the present time.

DELANEY W. COBB

Licensed State Land Surveyor of Texas

P. O. Box 203

Jourdanton, Texas

Phone POrter 9-4191

History of Atascosa County

ATASCOSA COUNTY was legally organized by an act of the Sixth Legislature of the state of Texas, Chapter XXXIII of the General Laws, at the session which convened November 5, 1855. This act was approved on January 25, 1856. Here Atascosa County was born. By the act, the Chief Justice of Bexar County was authorized to order an election for county officers of the county of Atascosa. The Chief Justice of Bexar County was then to qualify the newly elected Chief Justice of Atascosa County, who in turn was to qualify the other officers elected in the county.

The name Atascosa comes from the reflexive verb, atascarse, meaning "to mire, to bog". Z. T. Fulmore in his history of Texas says Atascosa means "boggy", and although there is no account of its application to Atascosa County, "There would seem to be no doubt as to why that region was called Atascosa before the Anglo-Americans began to traverse it." He goes on to say that "on November 22, 1842, all the camps of the summer belt expedition around the Mission Conception took up the line of march to El Presidio Rio Grande. They camped two nights and a day on the Rio Medina, then crossed that stream and after following the road (El Camino Real) for several miles, to the astonishment and mortification of everyone, it turned suddenly to the left and a few miles brought them to a sandy post-oak country where horses and mules sank to their bodies in quicksand. That locality became known as 'the bogs'".

Col. Jose Antonio Navarro, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, was among the first settlers of the region which became Atascosa County. He was born in San Antonio in 1795. His father, although a Spaniard, had come to the country from Corsica, and his mother was a descendent of the Canary Islanders. His sister married Governor Verimendi, who built the historic Verimendi Palace on Soledad Street in San Antonio. Their daughter, Ursula Verimendi, became the bride of James Bowie, one of the heroes of the Alamo. Navarro Street and Navarro School in San Antonio, Texas, and Navarro County are named for Col. Jose Navarro.

Some of the land owned by Col. Navarro was acquired by him in 1828. In 1841 the Republic of Texas deeded to him 20,000 acres of land for his services to the State of Texas. This land was situated in several of the counties adjacent to Bexar County. Before his death in San Antonio during the 1870's, he had disposed of his land with the exception of that in Atascosa County. Col. Navarro states in his last Will and Testament that he received a grant of four leagues of land in Atascosa County from the combined states of Coahuila and Texas of the Republic of Mexico. He further states that the four leagues contained 17,712 acres and that at the writing of the Will there remained in his estate some 13,640 acres in Atascosa. The land thus mentioned was situated on the banks of the Atascosa Creek about seven miles below the present community of Rossville and at a distance of about 12 miles from Pleasanton. The community of Rossville is located on the part of the Navarro grant which Col. Navarro bequeathed to his son, Antonio George Navarro, whose daughter, Maria Antonia, was married to John Ross.

Navarro donated the land on which the first County Courthouse was built. During a special term of the County Court on January 31, 1857, it was moved and seconded that the court accept the donation of land offered by Jose Antonio Navarro. The motion was passed and the first courthouse was built near the present-day community of Amphion. This first county seat was called Navatasco. The first court was held there in the spring of 1857.

The first county officers were:

Chief Justice	Marcellus French,
Sheriff	James H. French,
District Clerk	Edward Walker,
County Clerk	Daniel J. Tobin,
Tax Assessor and Collector	Thomas R. Brite,
County Treasurer	Baylor Winn,
District Attorney	James Paul,
District Judge	E. F. Buckner,

CENTENNIAL GREETINGS

Beginning the New Century
with a brand new Subdivision

Mr. & Mrs. Willard Smith,
Owners and
Developers
of

"SMITH VILLAGE"

Jourdanton, Texas

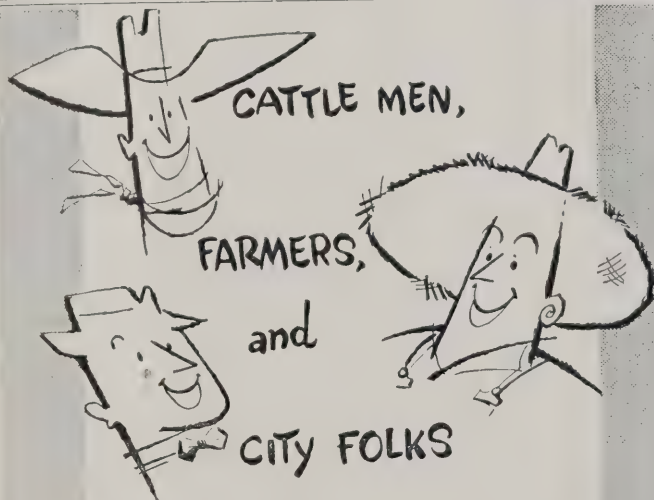
WE PAY TRIBUTE TO THOSE
PIONEERS IN WHOSE FOOTSTEPS
WE FOLLOW

WE ARE HAPPY TO TAKE UP
WHERE THEY LEFT OFF.

DAVIDSON BROTHERS

Shop and Save with
JOE, BOB & DAVE

POTEET, TEXAS



CATTLE MEN,

FARMERS,

and

CITY FOLKS

Agree on
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Gunter
HOTEL

- 550 ROOMS
- AIR CONDITIONED
- SMORGASBORD
- 24-HOUR COFFEE SHOP

Center of Everything in San Antonio

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Gunter
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For the finest cuisine, superbly prepared, you'll always enjoy the endless variety of the famous Gunter Smorgasbord.

LUNCHEON	11:45 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.	\$1.75
DINNER	5:45 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.	\$2.50

COFFEE SHOP

For excellent food, or just a snack, anytime of the day or night, visit the Gunter Coffee Shop.

OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY

CENTER OF EVERYTHING
IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

It is interesting to note some of the available facts on the lives of some of the first county officers. James H. French and Marcellus French were brothers who came from the state of Virginia about the year 1851, settling in Bexar County. James, who was born March 26, 1835, was hardly 21 years of age when he became the first sheriff of Atascosa County. Later, when the Civil War broke out, James entered the Confederate Army in May of 1861 and served with distinction in the Adjutant General's Office. Returning from the war, he settled in San Antonio, and in 1875 he was brought forward as a candidate for mayor of that city in opposition to the regular Democratic nominee. He was elected by a majority of 104 votes. He was so successful as Mayor of San Antonio that he served a total of 10 years in that office, becoming more popular with the people each term. In 1885, he declined nomination and became an alderman of the city and then later went into the real estate business. Chabot described French as the mayor who "made more improvements and built more bridges than any mayor with less money", and "who was a well-known merchant and a man of splendid physique and of great dignity. He was very handsome and of distinguished appearance." James H. French was married to Miss Sarah L. Webb in October, 1856, and they had five children. French died on September 8, 1893, in San Antonio.

Marcellus French, the first Chief Justice (County Judge) of Atascosa County, in 1857 commanded a company in the expedition for the relief of General Walker in Nicaragua, and in August of the same year he was elected to the Legislature from Bexar and Atascosa County. He returned to Virginia in July of 1861 and was in the Army of Northern Virginia, ranking as a captain in the Land Brigade (General Rosser), of Calvary. After the Civil War, he continued to reside in the State of Virginia.

Thomas R. Brite, the first Tax Assessor and Collector of Atascosa County, was a native of Callaway County, Missouri, moving to Texas when he was about 15 years of age. The family settled in Lockhart, Texas, and in 1854, Thomas R. Brite moved to Atascosa County. He was the father of W. T. (Bill) Brite and Charles H. Brite, both life-long residents of Atascosa County. While serving as County Treasurer of the county, Thomas R. Brite died at the age of thirty-five in 1859.

The first grand jury of Atascosa County was appointed by the District Court, Spring Term of March 3, 1857, E. F. Buckner, Judge of the 18th Judicial District, presiding. Present were James Paul, District Attorney; Edward Walker, District Clerk; and James H. French, Sheriff. The District Judge ordered a grand jury of twenty men: William N. Gates, James McDonald, Jacob Ryman, Sixto Navarro, Gil Rodriguez, James Brown, Jesus Hernandez, James Fuller, Richard Hilburn, Isaac Cavender, Drake Gilleland, Thomas R. Brite, Tryon Fuller, Cullen Benson, and Calvin Horton. James Brown was appointed foreman of the grand jury.

Other very early office holders were: William McLaughlin, J. P., Precinct #2, 1857; G. B. Laughlin, J. P., Prec. #5, 1856; William H. Long, Assessor and Collector of Texas, 1857; Thomas R. Brite, J. P., Prec. #2, 1856; Celso Navarro, J. P., Prec. #1, 1856; Joseph A. Durand, County Commissioner; Levi English, County Commissioner; James Lowe, County Commissioner; Elijah O'Brien, County Commissioner; E. T. Forrest, J. P., Prec. #1, 1856; Thomas B. Shelton, Constable, 1856; Daniel Williams, Constable, Prec. #1, 1856; James M. Smith, Constable, Prec. #2, 1857; William H. McCullough, Deputy Sheriff, 1857; Calvin Turner, Clerk of the District Court, 1858; E. P. Forrest, J. P., Prec. #2, 1858; A. C. Fairman, Chief Justice, 1858; Thomas R. Brite, County Treasurer, 1857; E. V. Dale, J. P., 1858; H. C. Fountain, County Commissioner, 1858; George Adkins, Constable, Prec. #2, 1858; William Caruthers, County Surveyor, 1858; G. W. M. Duck, Tax Collector, 1858; Levi Lewis, County Commissioner, 1858; M. C. Keely, Constable, Prec. #1, 1859; Robert G. Long, Sheriff, 1859; Jepe R. Smith, County Treasurer, 1859; B. M. Ballard, J. P., Prec. #1, 1859; Wright Williams, J. P., Prec. #2, 1859; P. C. Conway, District Clerk, 1860; John Neal, J. P., Prec. #1, 1860; John W. Stayton was District Attorney in 1858 and again in 1860, two terms.

Other very early settlers in the county during the 1850's were: Dempsey Forrest, Richard Hilburn, Thomas Barrett, Gaston I. Dumas, George McGuin, John Brueggeman, Charles W. Yow, W. W. Whitby, Duham Avant, Juan Gibbons, Daniel Day, Gustov Roesler, Charles Brown, Samuel E. Pearce, Jefferson McGrew, Wesley Tollett, F. G. Pirtle, Francis Hernan-

WE HONOR . . .
AND PAY TRIBUTE
TO THE HARDY PIONEERS OF
ATASCOSA COUNTY
IN THIS CENTENNIAL YEAR
OF 1956

N. L. HAINES, GROCERY
Serving Atascosa County Since 1941
North Pleasanton, Texas

We Are Proud
. . . To Be A Part Of
. . . Atascosa County
As it celebrates its Centennial in 1956.

**CITY CLEANERS
& READY-TO-WEAR**

"Always Something New"

Phone 9-4071

Jourdanton, Texas

Congratulations to Atascosa
County on this Big 100th Birthday

**ATASCOSA GENERAL
SUPPLY**

Groceries - Meats - Hardware
Clothing

"Your Friendly Store"

Jourdanton, Texas

We Are Proud To Be A Part of Atascosa County
As It Celebrates Its Centennial In 1956.



120 W. Josephine St.
San Antonio, Texas

We are proud to be a part of
Atascosa County as it celebrates
its Centennial in 1956

**NORTH PLEASANTON
PROGRESSIVE CLUB**

North Pleasanton, Texas

Famous for Serving Sunday

Chicken Dinners

Congratulations to Our Pioneers.
We are proud to be a part
of Atascosa County on this
Centennial Year 1956.

**CHARLIE'S
SERVICE STATION**

18 Years of Fine Service

Phone PO 9-3141

Jourdanton, Texas

dez, Joseph Hoopman, Richard H. Hill, Calvin Winn, Calvin Musgrove, Isaac R. Burt, Edward Ebans, Thomas I. H. Musgrove, Charles Salzman, John Sherman, Nickols T. Neth, Manuel Martinez, Francisco Esparza, Enrique Esparza, J. M. Walker, Juan Jesus de la Cruz, Maguel Packe, Andrés Menchaca, Rebecca Burleson, E. B. Thomas, Absulum T. Tumlinson, Peter Tumlinson, Elija B. Harrison, and R. E. Neill.



A Masonic meeting held in the combination school house and Masonic Hall in Benton City. The year is believed to be about 1878.

SOMERSET SETTLED BY THE ENGLISH

During the early 1850's, in the northwestern portion of the county were several communities. The largest and oldest of these was Somerset which was founded by a group of Baptist families from Somerset, Kentucky, whose ancestors in turn came from Somerset, England.

Somerset (now known and referred to as Old Somerset) during its day was a substantial community, having churches, a school, a post office, and several stores. Among the original buildings, the old rock church still stands with its adjacent cemetery. The corner stone of the old church shows that it was erected in 1852, and services are still held there today.

Among the early settlers of the Somerset area were the G. W. M. Ducks, William Klemkes, Aaron Rambies, the Millers, Lewises, Carruthers, Caughfields, Winans, Mudds, Edwards, and Desmukes.

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Soledad at Romana Plaza
CA 3-4311

Southside Store

Pleasanton Rd. at Loop 13
WA 3-3466

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MONTERREY OIL COMPANY



RIO NEGRO

$\frac{7}{8}$ purebred Brazilian Blood, was grand-champion February 1955 at San Antonio Live Stock Show. I will have offsprings for sale this fall.

*Congratulations to the people of Atascosa
County for their 100 years of progress*

•

M. M. DAVIS

Box 125

CHARLOTTE, TEXAS

Phone 3101

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OF
ATASCOSA COUNTY
AS IT CELEBRATES ITS
CENTENNIAL
IN 1956

HALEY CHEVROLET
COMPANY

POTEET, TEXAS

WE PAY TRIBUTE TO ATASCOSA
COUNTY PIONEERS ON THIS
100th ANNIVERSARY

And may we, the present day citizens,
carry on the many fine traditions
they established so well.

CHARLOTTE AUTO
SALES

Olin Brownlee

Charles F. Thompson

CHARLOTTE, TEXAS

We Pay Tribute to
Atascosa County Pioneers
On this 100th Anniversary

We of the First State Bank take this
occasion to express our appreciation to
all who have contributed to the growth
and progress of Atascosa County
during the Past Century.

FIRST STATE BANK

POTEET, TEXAS

We Pay Tribute . . .
To Those Pioneers In Whose
Footsteps We Follow.

We are happy To Carry on Into The
Second Century.

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Tractors — Implements

POTEET, TEXAS



One of the early classes held at the school in Benton City.

JUST A GHOST TOWN

Six miles west of Somerset was Benton City. In its day it had three cotton gins, a five-teacher school with music department, a hotel, and several grocery stores. It even had a newspaper, the **Benton City Era**, edited by F. M. McCaleb. J. R. Sweeten, J. L. McCaleb, Virgin Johnson, D. K. Bradshaw were the leading merchants; Dr. S. M. Applewhite had a drug store; and Dr. J. M. White was the leading physician. Mr. Bowman had the blacksmith shop and Capt. Sam Fleming the carpenter shop. Edwin Mitchell ran the boot, shoe, and saddle shop. A. W. Huzelrigg was Justice of the Peace, and George Hector was deputy sheriff.

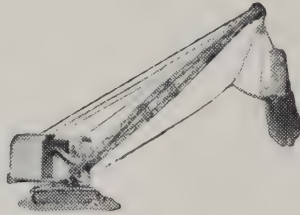
In 1878, according to the **Texas Stock Journal and Farmer**—"here one may see the Benton City Institute, for both sexes, which is now owned and under the auspices of Prof. B. C. Hendrix and lady, and is equal to similar institutions in Kentucky and others of the older states."

The **Benton City Era** in 1879 boasted of rapid progress of the little city and of the fact that they had a petition before the Legislature for a new county with Benton City to be the county seat. They might have succeeded in getting a new county if they had not cut off so much territory from Bexar and Medina Counties. These counties subsequently killed the newly proposed county. This, of course, checked the rapid progress of the little city, but it went ahead and continued to prosper until 1881 when the railroad came. The railroad established the town of Lytle, missing Benton City a few miles to the west. From then on Benton City died a slow death.

Of the city proper only the old two-story school house and Masonic hall remain. The hall stands silently through the years, the echoes of by-gone days ringing through its walls. In 1919, the last vestige of Benton City's power passed with the consolidation of its school.

Congratulations to Atascosa County on Its Centennial.

We do root plowing and seeding, brush control of all kinds, tank work.



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PALMER & PAGE CONSTRUCTION CO.

Star Route --- Phone 4610 - 2145

Pleasanton, Texas

“Winners of Conservation Award presented by Woodmen of the World”

We pay tribute to Atascosa County and its Pioneers in this Centennial year of 1956, and pledge to give the best service possible in the future.



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19 Years of **HUMBLE** Service

Phones:

Office: POrter 9-2551, POrter 9-5401; Res. POrter 9-5096

Jourdanton, Texas



Typical of the early homes in the county is the one pictured above which was built in the early 1860's.

THE FIRST COUNTY SEAT

The old town of Amphion was closely associated with the early history of Atascosa County. At one time it was a thriving little community which was cut up into streets, blocks, and lots like a modern town. The first County Seat and courthouse were located here. However, due to Indian raids the seat of government did not remain at Amphion for a very long period of time. The site of the courthouse building is somewhat questionable. However, an old log house on the Barrow land on the banks of the Atascosa Creek is generally accepted as its location.

The community in its heyday had several general stores, two drug stores, two barber shops, a blacksmith shop, a dry goods store, a cotton gin, a tannery, a boarding house, a Methodist Church and parsonage, a Woodman of the World building, a Masonic building, and a Summer Normal for Teachers.

The people associated with the town in early days were the T. L. Richardsons, W. A. Purgason, J. H. Barrow, Tom Lozano, Frank Lozano, J. C. Gunn, John Hannon, John Desmuke, the Ferns, Jenkins, Lowes, Gates, Jacksons, Hobrects, Seeds, Jacksons, Nails, Craven, and Sarwolskis.

With the coming of the railroad and the founding of Poteet and Jourdanton, the population and business houses rapidly decreased until Amphion became a ghost town. Automobiles and improved roads put a finishing touch to the once prosperous village. All that remains now is memories of another town that the railroad missed.

LYTLE GROWS FROM FIRST COUNTY RAILROAD STATION

Lytle grew out of 321 acres around the head of Atascosa Creek which in 1856 was patented to Henry Volker who was the assignee of Hahan Matter. The patent was signed by E. M. Pease, Governor of Texas. In 1870 Volker sold the 321 acres to Fitch S. Adams for \$175. The first school was built on Mr. Adams' property. There was no deed, but a verbal agreement that as long as the school building was there, the property on which it stood would belong to the school.

We Pay Tribute To
Atascosa County Pioneers On This 100th Anniversary

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Drilling Depths to 5,000 Feet.

W. B. Blocker

--

John R. Blocker

--

B. W. Hudgens

The town had its beginning in 1882 when the International and Great Northern Railroad established a station there. This was the only railroad station in the county at that time. In 1881 the railroad officials had made an agreement with B. G. Andrews in which he was to give the land for the station. Andrews Station was built as per agreement, but upon completion of the building, there was some misunderstanding in making the deed, with Mr. Andrews refusing to submit the property deed.

Captain J. T. Lytle then secured land three miles southwest of Andrews Station and that much nearer Lytle-McDaniel Ranch. One morning railroad employees loaded Andrews Station on two flat cars and moved it to the present location of Lytle. The new station became known as Lytle or Lytle station and was named for Captain Lytle.

Geographically, Lytle is between the branches of the Atascosa River which heads in that area, about 20 miles west of San Antonio on Highway 81. It is in the very far corner of Atascosa County and is bordered by the counties of Bexar and Medina. Actually some of Lytle's inhabitants live in Medina County just across the line.

Some of the early landowners of the Lytle area were the Lytles, McDaniels, Adamses, Newtons, and Gates.

Captain J. T. Lytle came to Texas in 1860 from Pennsylvania. He was a well-known rancher and trail operator for many years. After serving in the Confederate Army he became a partner of Mr. T. M. McDaniel in the cattle business. Between 1868 and 1873 their drivers are said to have handled more than 450,000 cattle over the trail drives. Mr. McDaniel was the father of Mrs. Helen Peel, who for many years was postmaster at Jourdanton.

Mr. W. H. Garnand was the first postmaster of Lytle. In fact, he and his young bride established one of the first homes in the town in 1882. The first child born in Lytle was their daughter, Josie Garnand Carlisle. Mr. Garnand was also one of the early merchants along with Mr. R. U. Brown who had operated his store in the Old Governor's Mansion in San Antonio prior to coming to Lytle. Later he was joined in the mercantile business by his son-in-law, Mr. J. S. Hethcock. One of the first depot agents was Mr. Lindley. Several years after the founding of the town, the first newspaper was owned and edited by Ripley Dollahite who later was killed in the Rock Springs tornado of West Texas. A Mr. Tunnel also edited an interesting town paper which was printed at La Coste. Many years later other business establishments included Carr Coal Co. (later Bertetti Coal Co.); a lumber yard owned by A. F. Gates and Son; a barber shop operated only on Saturdays by Jim Harbour; and the first hotel which was run by Mrs. Coots.

Families prominent in Lytle's early days were the Gillettes, R. U. Browns, R. N. Browns, Gayles, Youngs, Cooks, Hethcocks, Newtons, Lytles, Throwers, Houses, Garnands, Lancasters, Miller, Laughlins, McLaughlins, Trimbles, Coots, Tates, Johnsons, and Meeks.

Early doctors included Dr. Sartor, Dr. White, Dr. Beakley, Dr. Craddock, and later Dr. Neal and Dr. Touchstone.

The principal industries of the early settlers were farming and cattle raising. Lytle was quite a shipping point for cattle. The old stock pen and loading chute was a familiar landmark for years, having only recently been removed to make way for progress.

Cotton and corn were the main crops planted. Gins were located at both Lytle and Benton. Buyers came to the gin yard and bought cotton right there.

First religious services in the community were sponsored by Mrs. White, wife of an early doctor. Union services were held in the school house until the Baptist and Methodist churches were built. The land upon which the Methodist Church was built was bought from Flora C. and A. A. Dial on October 24, 1892. The one room 27 x 39 building was erected soon after the purchase of the land, and it was later incorporated into the present church building. Rev. Price Garrett and Bro. Newton were two of the early pastors. The original bell that called the early settlers to worship is still in use. The Baptist Church was organized with nine charter members in December, 1893. It too was a one-room building which was later supplanted with the present brick building. One of the early ministers was Mr. Cook.

Often picnics were held at the two churches, and the entire citizenry turned out for these

We, the undersigned, District, County, and Precinct Officers during the Centennial year of 1956, are very proud to salute and pay homage to those sturdy pioneers of Atascosa County who blazed the way in example of good government. We look back with high respect on the accomplishments of these noble pioneers and steer our course to the future, guided by principles established through the years.

H. D. BARROW.....	District Judge
JOHN F. MAY.....	District Attorney
EDGAR L. WILLIAMS.....	District Clerk
RAY STRICKLAND	Sheriff
J. TAYLOR BRITE.....	County Attorney
FRED RICHMOND, JR.....	Tax-Assessor & Collector
J. HOWARD GALLOWAY.....	County Superintendent of Schools
JOHN M. PEEL.....	County Surveyor
C. W. MARTIN, SR.....	County Clerk
LYDIA CRAIN	County Treasurer
T. L. ERNST.....	County Auditor
W. A. DOLLAHITE.....	Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 1
MAY O. RILEY.....	Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 2
GUY H. SMITH, SR.....	Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 4
S. R. HUGHES.....	Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 6
B. M. ENGLISH.....	Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 7
STANLEY COUGHRAN	Justice of the Peace, Precinct No. 8
W. C. BUZAN.....	Constable, Precinct No. 8
LOUIS F. BRAUCHLE.....	Constable, Precinct No. 3
ALTON ROGERS	Constable, Precinct No. 7
SMITH TAUSCH	Constable, Precinct No. 4
LUTHER C. JORDAN.....	Constable, Precinct No. 6

affairs. While these "eat" feasts were exciting and wonderful, there were other events that rivaled them. One of these was the train. It is told that the train whistled while one of these picnics was in progress at the Baptist Church. One mother of a dozen "younguns" grabbed children right and left and was heard to say, "Come on, kids, let's go see them cyars".

The first school was a one-room affair. The lumber was carted in from Port Lavaca by ox wagons. The building was unsealed. Some of the early teachers were Miss Sue Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Crouch, Mr. and Mrs. Barwich, Mr. Mebus, Mr. McIlhenny, and Mr. Roe.



A class which was held in the first school at Lytle.

The school was the center of the community social life, and for a while the religious life, of the area. In fact, all community functions were held there—preaching, dancing, spelling bees, and socials. There was even a literary club. Walter Henson, who had been away to school and had a fine voice, was often on the program of the literary club.

At all night entertainments, candles placed on the horizontal bracings around the room were used for illumination. One of the school's minor catastrophes came about from this practice. Every year at Christmas time a community tree was held there. One year a candle on the tree caught the decorative paper on fire. While the men rushed to Mr. Garnand's well for water to douse the fire, some of the others "who were addicted to the tobacco habit" literally spat the fire out with tobacco juice.

The school continued as a one-teacher school until 1896 when both Mr. and Mrs. Crouch taught there. Still all of the children were in the same room. The little ones faced north; the big ones faced south. Subjects taught were readin', writin', and ciperin'. A student progressed at his own rate from one reader to another, from one speller to another. After learning to spell, the student started in the dictionary, learning diacritical markings. School spelling matches and recitations on Friday afternoons were popular in those days. Every child learned to "speak a piece" during the year.

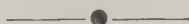
Many years later, under the able leadership of Prof. J. F. Johnson, Lytle High School came into being. It is one of the five largest schools in the county today. It has been said that no

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We Make

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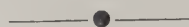


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Jourdanton, Texas

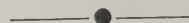
GOD, HELP US!



Let Us All Meet

at the

Next Centennial



FRED'S DRIVE INN

Pleasanton, Texas

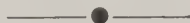
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To Be A Part of

Atascosa County

As it Celebrates its Centennial

in 1956



MARTIN ABSTRACT
COMPANY

GLENN N. STEINLE, Manager

Jourdanton, Texas

Serving Atascosa County for Over 50 Years

We honor and pay tribute to

the hardy pioneers of

ATASCOSA COUNTY

in this Centennial Year

of 1956



CARLISLE FEED MILL

IVAN C. CARLISLE, Owner

Jourdanton, Texas



In foreground is Mrs. Costs' Hotel. In oackground is the original Baptist church building.

other era of the school's existence has produced as many professional people and people striving for higher education as did that period under the leadership of Prof. Johnson.

On April 24, 1895, a terrible hail storm hit the Lytle-Benton area completely destroying crops and doing unestimated damage. Cattle were killed, and people who were unable to get shelter were permanently injured. One old timer who weathered the storm says that hail remained in the gully for as long as six weeks. People actually had to leave home because of the stench of dead animals; houses were blown away from chimneys; and roofs were completely swept away.

Mr. R. U. Brown and Mr. Bill Garnand reported this catastrophe to San Antonio, and that city sent food and clothing to the destitute people. Galveston also sent help. "There was not a dry pound of flour in the area", says one informant. The storm lasted about fifteen minutes and covered an area six miles long. An incoming train crew was so baffled by the seeming fog (steam) rising at Lytle that they uncoupled the engine at the coal mine switch before easing into town to see what had happened. One informant says it seemed one was in a vacuum of such intense noise that one sound could not possibly be separated from another.

In 1885-87 this area was in a severe drought. Again food was sent in and distributed to the needy. It was also freighted into other parts of the county by freight lines. One young man who did much of this work was John G. Matthews, who later became a teacher in Atascosa County.

FIRST SCOTCH COLONY IN SOUTHWEST TEXAS

Rossville, the first Scotch colony in Southwest Texas was founded in 1873 by the Ross brothers, William Frazer Mather Ross and John Clark Ross. The two men, who were born in a little village in the northern tip of Scotland, decided to leave home in 1864. After spending several years in London, England, they sailed from Liverpool for the port of Galveston, Texas, arriving there in 1867.

Their intention was to settle in Brazoria County, but they found it to be wet and infested with malaria. Therefore, they came to San Antonio. John obtained a small store in Dogtown,

PLEASANTON
PHARMACY

Main Street

COMPLETE PRESCRIPTION
SERVICE

Drugs --- Sundries
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We Pay Tribute . . .

To Those Pioneers
In whose footsteps we follow.

We are happy to carry on into
The Second Century.

WILLIAMS HARDWARE

Pleasanton, Texas

QUILLIAN MOTOR CO.

Pleasanton, Texas

Congratulations To
ATASCOSA COUNTY
For a Century of Progress

We are happy to have been a
part of this progress for
the past thirty years.

DOWDY'S
MEN'S & BOYS' WEAR
Pleasanton, Texas

Better Brands of Clothes
for Men and Boys

Congratulations To
ATASCOSA COUNTY
on producing the friendliest
people in the world during
the past 100 years.

In Memory Of Alice and Tom Peeler



THOMAS M. PEELER was born Nov. 15, 1849, in Kosciusko, Miss. He came to Texas when eighteen years of age and worked on the Irvin & Millet ranch in Baylor County. While in their employ, he made several trips up the trail. January 21, 1880, he married Miss Alice Jane Irvin, who was born at Seguin, Texas, Oct. 12, 1856. In 1882 they moved to Atascosa County and established the Basin Hill Ranch near Campbellton, later named the 7PL Ranch for the "seven little Peelers", five boys and two girls, born to Alice and Tom. After Mr. Peeler's death, May 18, 1897, Mrs. Peeler continued to run the ranch until her death July 11, 1934.

Two of the boys are still in the ranching business. One son, Jeff, died Nov. 3, 1952. Travis lives in Kingsville, Grady in Corpus Christi, Beatrice (Thompson) in Nacogdoches, and Mamie (Shannon) in Austin.

Pictured, left to right, in foreground, are Graves and Alonzo with part of Graves' herd of Longhorn cattle, the largest herd remaining in Texas. Graves owns his ranch in McMullen County.

Alonzo owns and operates the old Hall Ranch, six miles south of Christine, which was founded by the late Capt. W. S. Hall. He started ranching on his own at the age of twenty and developed one of the largest ranches in this area. In 1922 he married Guinnetta Andrews, daughter of the late Mrs. H. L. Andrews, a pioneer of Christine. Six years ago they began reducing both land and cattle holdings by giving their daughter and son-in-law, grandson Alonzo, Jr., and several nieces and nephews a start in the ranching business. Guinnetta and Alonzo still live on their farm in Christine where they welcome their many friends.

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ATASCOSA COUNTY
. . . ON THIS CENTENNIAL

. . . and pledge to carry on into the New Century . . .
with the best service possible.

HAVERLAH ONE-STOP
SERVICE STATION AND CAFE

PLEASANTON, TEXAS

A HEARTY WELCOME!

Atascosa County Lumber Co.

On Highway 97

PLEASANTON, TEXAS

now Tilden, and had a contract to furnish hay to the government. He later took a contract to carry the mail to Laredo from San Antonio. William was his right-hand man. It was on these mail trips that they found the fertile soil around the present community of Rossville. Because of the plentiful wild game and abundant water supply, they decided to settle there. It was here they brought such Scotch families as they could induce to come to Texas. Among them were: John Waddell, Spences, Phelps, Whitesides, MacKays, the Taberers, Langstons, and Scherpys.

Rossville soon had a one-room school in which all grades were taught; a cotton gin owned by Captain William Murray; and a post office whose postmaster was Andy Newman. There was a grocery store owned by William Ross; later another one owned by H. W. D. Langston; and still later one owned by Jose Riojas. The official photographer was J. P. Farran. There was one saloon owned by the Herreras; one bakery; one cobbler; one mid-wife, Mrs. Nanie Martinez; and a veterinarian, Enrique Tobar. Theodoro Alvarez, guide, cowboy, and hunter, who lived to be 102 years old, was also a resident.

1437108



A group of students from the old Live Oak School, no longer in existence. It was located north of the present town of Charlotte.

The Roman Catholic Church was built in 1891 on land given by Mr. and Mrs. H. W. D. Langston. Mr. Langston had come from England in 1865 and settled in San Antonio. There he married Margarita Navarro, granddaughter of Col. José Navarro. About 1873 they moved to Rossville where he engaged in farming and stock raising. He believed in good stock, so he went north and purchased a small herd of registered Duroc Jersey hogs, the first to come to Atascosa County. He also raised some of the best mules and horses ever seen in this section.

With a growing demand for a Protestant church, the English and Scotch made a trip to San Antonio to talk to Bishop Johnstone, Bishop of West Texas. Seeing the need for a mission in Rossville, the Bishop sent one of his ministers to the town in the fall of 1893. As a result of these efforts, the first Episcopal church in Atascosa County was built on land given by W. F. M. Ross.

The Baptists of the other towns in the county came to Rossville to hold large camp meetings with barbecues held on the river bottom under the large live oak trees.

All in all Rossville was a nice quiet little village where everyone was congenial, friendly,

**WE CONGRATULATE . . .
ATASCOSA COUNTY
. . . ON THIS CENTENNIAL**

**. . . and pledge to carry on in the New Century
with the best service possible.**

HURLEY AUTO PARTS

PLEASANTON, TEXAS

RICKS COMPANY

DEPARTMENT STORE

Red & White Grocery Store

Pleasanton, Texas

SERVICE -- QUALITY -- VALUE

In Atascosa County Since 1892

and helpful. She had her boom days, but like so many of the early communities in the county she lost out when she was missed by the railroad.

CAMPBELLTON BEGINS WITH FRONTIER STORE

John Campbell, who was born in Ireland in 1834, moved into Atascosa County in 1857 with the purpose of going into the ranching business. He had been an Indian fighter under Captain James Callahan of the Texas Rangers and served in the Confederate Army. At the close of the war he returned with his wife to his ranch.

Since the nearest town, Oakville, was twenty-eight miles away, Mr. Campbell established a store which was near his ranch. Thus the town of Campbellton was born. In addition to the Campbells, other pioneer settlers included the Bristers, Mills, Osborns, and Toms.

Mr. Campbell employed a mail carrier at his own expense to connect with the San Antonio stage at Pleasanton. Later the government extended the line through Campbellton to Oakville and the Rio Bravo. The store of Mr. Campbell then became the relay station where stages and horses were kept for the change.

The store was destined to be looted many times. One of the contemplated robberies was tipped off to Capt. Lee Hall of the Texas Rangers. Capt. Hall, Mr. Campbell, and several rangers hid themselves until the robbers entered the building. A fight ensued in which the officers killed one Mexican, wounded a white man who afterward died, captured one American, and routed the remaining robbers. No further attempts were made to rob the store after this fight.

In order that his children might have school in their younger days, Mr. Campbell built the first school house in the community. The school was built on his property, and he paid the teacher and boarded him free. However, Mr. Campbell did not restrict the services of the teacher solely to his own children. Instead, he insisted that all the children in the community attend the school.

The first church services held in Campbellton were Catholic. The priest came about every two months. So that he might hold mass, an altar was erected for him in the Campbell home. Later a church was built. The Methodist Church was organized in 1894.

The first post office was established in 1874, near the present site of Campbellton. Called Bell Branch, it was probably named for a nearby creek. The name was changed to Campbellton in 1879. The first postmaster was John Campbell.

Now located on Highway 281, Campbellton is still primarily a ranching community. However, in recent years there has been some oil activity in the area.

CHANGE OF COUNTY SEAT CREATES PLEASANTON

When the necessity for moving the County Seat from Amphion became apparent, an election was held in the county to determine the permanent location for the new county seat. With a majority of 98 votes the Bowen Place, lying in or about the mouth of the Bonita Creek on the Atascosa Creek was selected.



This group of students stands in front of the old Rock School in Pleasanton. Still standing, this building is now a residence.

WELCOME
TO THE CENTENNIAL

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WINN'S RED & WHITE
AND VARIETY

North Pleasanton, Texas

WELCOME

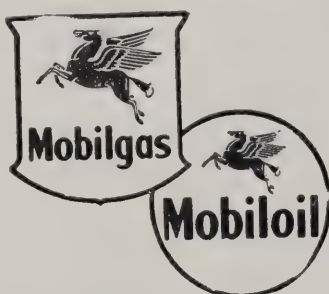
A HEARTY WELCOME
TO ALL

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North Pleasanton, Texas

We Pay Tribute . . .

. . . To those Pioneers
in whose footsteps we follow.
We are happy to carry on
into the Second Century.



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Modern Butane Co.

Serving Throughout Southwest Texas

Anytime --- Anywhere

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L. P. Gas
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-----O-----

Pleasanton, Texas

Phone 2323

Seven commissioners, James Loew, J. A. Durand, Elijah O'Brien, Levi English, E. B. Thomas, Peter Tumlinson, and H. C. Fountain, were appointed to select the place where the town would be laid off on the Bowen Tract. It was stipulated that the town be within five miles of the center of the county. Mr. John Bowen, the owner of the Bowen Tract, donated every alternate lot to the new municipality. Thus the city of Pleasanton came into being.

Augustus Fairman was appointed by the court as County Agent to contract for the building of the courthouse at a cost not to exceed one hundred and twenty-five dollars. The first courthouse was built by Mr. Green Alford, a long-time resident of McMullen County. Nine years later, a new courthouse was built by William Guynes, and the first one was rented for \$15.00 per month by the school trustees. The first jail was a hole in the ground with some roofing overhead to keep the rain out. It was 12 feet deep and was covered with a raised trap door and fastened with a padlock. The original log cabin courthouse became the log cabin school with Judge W. H. Smith the teacher. Also this first courthouse served as a church building during the 50's and 60's.

John Bowen's name was originally Ralph William Peacock, and he came to Texas in 1815 with his brother, George Peacock. They had a half-brother residing in Jamaica whose name was John Bowen. Upon the death of the latter, he left his fortune to Ralph William and George Peacock, with the request that one of them change his name to John Bowen so that



Water spills from the well being drilled on the courthouse grounds at Pleasanton. This was the water supply for the newly established county seat.

the latter name would not die out. In response to his request, Ralph William Peacock, through an act of the legislature, became John Bowen in 1848.

He was Treasurer of the City of San Antonio during the periods 1849-54 and 1856-58. He was also the first American Postmaster of San Antonio and the first postmaster of San Antonio under the Texas Republic. After a lingering illness, John Bowen died in 1867 and was buried on "Bowen's Island", a five acre tract of land in the heart of San Antonio. His body was later moved to the San Fernando Cemetery. The Transit Tower now marks the spot where "Bowen's Island" was situated.

After the founding of Pleasanton many settlers soon began to arrive. The first one to settle and build a house was E. B. Thomas, who also put up the first store in the prospective town. Then came Tobias Kelley, Calvin S. Turner, Judge A. C. Fairman, J. H. Dorsey, John W. Stayton, and V. Weldon. The two last named were brothers-in-law and partners in the blacksmith business. They were also young law practitioners. John W. Stayton was elected District Attorney of Atascosa County in 1858 and again in 1860. After serving in the Confederate Army, he was appointed Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Texas, and in 1888 he became Chief Justice of that court.

Our Best Wishes for Atascosa
County's Centennial
Celebration.



35 Years of Continuous Service in
Pleasanton and Atascosa County



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SERVICE STATION

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Phone 8813

PLEASANTON, TEXAS

We Are Proud

. . . To Be a Part of
. . . Atascosa County
As It Celebrates its Centennial
In 1956



MILLERS
DEPARTMENT STORE

"17 Years In Pleasanton"

WELCOME
CENTENNIAL VISITORS



KRAUSE RED CHAIN
FEED STORE

PLEASANTON, TEXAS

We Honor . . .

And Pay Tribute
To The Hardy Pioneers of
ATASCOSA COUNTY
In This Centennial Year
of 1956



CORGEY'S LADY & TOT
SHOP

Pleasanton, Texas



One of the early businesses in Pleasanton was George Martin's store above. It was located on the corner now occupied by Pleasanton Pharmacy.

Among the first settlers of Pleasanton was the Methodist preacher, W. W. Whitby. In 1857 John Wesley de Vilbisa helped to organize the Methodist Church in Pleasanton. The first resident preacher was Thomas B. Ferguson. In 1866 the First Baptist Church was established, and like the Methodists, the members met in the old log courthouse. Mr. I. N. Cooper was the first Baptist minister.

In 1858 a postoffice, the only one existing in the county at that time, was opened in Pleasanton. In 1861, Pleasanton was described as containing "about a dozen families, two blacksmith shops, and three lawyers."

Pleasanton became School District #1 in 1860 with Mr. W. J. Pephram the first teacher. Little is known about Pleasanton schools during the Civil War and Reconstruction Period when Texas schools almost disappeared. In 1873 the state government passed a law establishing a system of public free schools in Texas. W. H. Smith, a mercantile businessman, was then appointed District Director. He was an outstanding leader in the Pleasanton educational system. His wife, Aunt Polly Smith, also taught school. Thomas G. Deaver was the first teacher in the public free school, earning the then enormous salary of \$50.00 a month.

The old Rock School (now a residence) was built during the year 1875. Mr. E. R. Lyons donated the land. The school was a community project with all materials being donated, and the men of the town working on it as they could. In 1883 another room was added and still another in 1884. Two of the pupils who went to school in 1882 in this building are Mrs. Sally Lyons and Mrs. Mattie Richardson. Mrs. Richardson is the daughter of Judge W. H. Smith.

On the 25th of March, 1870, it was ordered by the County Court that the jail built by J. Rid Hoy be received. Officers serving at that time were T. J. H. Musgrave, County Judge; Calvin Musgrave, County Commissioner; J. D. Hoy, County Commissioner; L. W. Peacock, Sheriff; and Coleman Lyons, County Clerk. On Tuesday morning, May 17, 1870, the Sheriff was ordered to rent the courthouse for two dollars and fifty cents per night to parties wishing to dance. On January 28, 1875, plans were let to the firm of Northcraft and Donaldson for the erection of a new jail in Pleasanton. On November 13, 1876, account of W. C. Willington for fence around the courthouse square was approved for the sum of \$340.00; on June 19, 1877, the court approved a statement for "the digging of a well in the Courthouse Square at \$1.00 per foot. The sum of \$32.00, including well bucket, was authorized to be paid. On April 23, 1885, contract was made between Oscar Crawford and Atascosa County for the building of a two-story courthouse.

In 1878 an advertisement was seen in the **Texas Stock Journal** concerning the Pleasanton Institute, a School of Instruction in the Branches of a Practical Education, School Cul-

CONGRATULATIONS

. . . To the Pioneers
. . . To the Founders
. . . To the Builders
-- of --

ATASCOSA COUNTY

. . . On the Occasion
of this Centennial



HI-WAY GROCERY

Pleasanton, Texas

LEON THEATRE

-- and --

TRAIL DRIVE IN



Pleasanton, Texas

We Honor . . .

And Pay Tribute

To the Hardy Pioneers of
ATASCOSA COUNTY
In This Centennial Year
of 1956



GRAY'S
HOME FURNISHINGS

Pleasanton, Texas

**WELCOME
VISITORS**



ROYAL FRUIT STAND
GROCERY & MARKET

Pleasanton, Texas



A group of teachers attending the Pleasanton Teachers Institute in the late 1890's.

ture, and Moral Standing. The director of the school was J. R. Griffin, and his assistant was Miss Lydia Goodwin.

As for business establishments in Pleasanton during the early days, it is noted that in 1874 the following firms were assessed to pay an occupation tax for that year: Bowyer & Co., 3rd Class merchant; W. H. Smith & Co., 4th Class merchant; J. C. Carr & Bros., 4th Class merchants; Johnson and Dillard, 4th Class merchant; Johnson & Dillard Livery Stable; W. J. Johnson, Hotel; J. D. Johnson, druggist; Barnett Ragsdale, restaurant; McLane and McLane, Lawyers; E. W. Earnest, W. D. Mills, and J. D. Johnston, Doctors; W. H. Smith, Lawyer; A. H. Kean, J. R. Shanklin, KEAN & SHANKLIN, Dry Goods and Groceries.

Pleasanton did not escape Indian raids. In 1861 the Indians made the most daring foray that the settlers in Atascosa County were to experience. They did not confine their raid to Atascosa alone, but spread death and destruction on their trail back to the mountains. They killed Mustang Moore at the station of that name on the International Railroad, and also killed the tax assessor of Bandera County. At Pleasanton they killed William Herndon and a negro belonging to Marcellus French. Another of his negroes was captured. Alexander Anderson and Eli O'Brien were wounded. Napoleon Tucker was with Herndon, and being on fast horse, made his escape and brought the news of the presence of the Indians to the people in town. They had first made their appearance in a small settlement nearby, and Ed Lyons sent Alex Anderson on a fast horse to notify the people at Pleasanton. The Indians came upon him a mile from town and ran him in, shooting an arrow into his back. News now came fast, and there was great excitement. Men continued to run in wounded or with their faces torn by limbs in their desperate flight from the Comanches.

Eli O'Brien had been hunting stock and, believing there were "no Indians in the country", had gone unarmed. He came upon a band of Indians about two miles from town. Mistaking them for cowmen, because of the hats they wore, he rode toward them. As the Indians began to string their bows, Mr. O'Brien suddenly realized the danger and wheeled his horse back toward Pleasanton and safety. The Indians divided and rode parallel to the man, trying to cut him off. With three arrows in his back, Mr. O'Brien tried to kill the closest Indian with a butcher knife. Then, almost to town, he was confronted with another peril. Between the man and town was a deep gully, ten feet wide and ten feet deep. He couldn't avoid the gully without being cut off, and if he missed, the Indians would have him also.

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... with our Delicious Oven-Fresh
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EARL'S BAKERY

Pleasanton, Texas

W E L C O M E

SEISMO PLUGS

Pleasanton, Texas

The Modern Method of Permanently
Sealing Shot Holes

THANKS To The Centennial Belles
For Buying Cosmetic Permits.

VICKY'S BEAUTY SHOP

Phone 2224

Pleasanton, Texas

WELCOME
CENTENNIAL VISITORS

CHARLIE'S BARBER SHOP

Pleasanton, Texas

STAFFORD & SONS

FORD TRACTORS

General Electric Appliances
General Electric Air Conditioning

Pleasanton, Texas

We pay tribute . . . to those Pioneers
In Whose Footsteps We Follow.

WE ARE HAPPY TO CARRY ON INTO
THE SECOND CENTURY

McFarland's
Texaco Service Station
Pleasanton, Texas

WELCOME
CENTENNIAL VISITORS

J. B. MARTIN STORE

Pleasanton, Texas

CENTENNIAL GREETINGS

DIXON'S SERVICE STATION

Pleasanton, Texas

Without slowing his horse, and listening to the deafening Indian screams, Eli O'Brien leaned forward and let his horse jump naturally. The animal went over with several feet to spare. The Indians gave up the chase, and Mr. O'Brien rode into town, barely able to sit in his saddle. The arrows were removed, and he recovered.

Eli Johnson and others went out and brought in the body of Herndon. Thinking they were not able to cope with such a body of Indians alone, a runner was sent east for help, and two hundred men from Guadalupe and Gonzales Counties under the command of Captain Rabb came to their aid. The Indians, however, had gone back to the mountains. Warnings of Indians were still given in local newspapers as late as 1873.

Pleasanton has seen many changes of history through the years. In 1910 the County Seat was removed from Pleasanton to Jourdan. In 1870 the population of Pleasanton was 206; in 1920 the population was 1036; today its population is estimated at 4000. In 1912 the railroad from Pleasanton to San Antonio was completed, and in 1914 the railroad from Pleasanton to Corpus Christi was finished.

HINDES NAMED FOR PIONEER RANCHER

Mr. George F. Hindes was born in Wilcox County, Alabama, September 30, 1844, the son of Moses and Mary (Mason) Hindes. He came with his father's family to the state of Texas in 1855, first settling in Caldwell County and in the following year locating in Atascosa County.

Both before and after the Civil War the Hindes family was subjected to the most trying hardships of frontier life. The savage Indians were the chief cause of their trouble. In 1865 Moses Hindes was murdered by the Indians on the Frio River in what is now McMullen County. When the Indians came to steal horses in the night, Hindes shot his muzzle-loading gun to scare them away. George F. was standing by his father's side when the deadly shot which killed him crashed out in the darkness. And then the Indians stampeded the horses and disappeared into the night.

At the age of seventeen George F. Hindes joined the Confederate Army in the state of his adoption and served under Colonel Santos Benavides on the southern boundary of his state. In 1865 Mr. Hindes married Caroline Fountain of Atascosa County and the couple had seven children.

In 1873 the Hindes family moved from their ranch to Pleasanton where George entered the mercantile business in partnership with James Bowyer. It was during this year that Mr. Hindes took his first herd of cattle over the northern trail to Wichita, Kansas. The proceeds of this sale was the first considerable sum of money that he had ever possessed and was the starting point in his future prosperity.

Mr. Hindes owned the ranch located on the San Miguel Creek in the southwestern corner of the county in connection with his sons, David and Frank, and his nephew, Will R., whom he reared and whose destiny was closely linked with that of the family of his uncle.

In order to bring the railroad to his section of the county, Mr. Hindes gave over 5000 acres of land to the railway company as a bonus and he and his family gave much of their time getting neighboring ranchers to give land. They also gave land for the right-of-way, and in June, 1910, Mr. Hindes gave a deed to Mr. J. F. Edwards for land on which to build the town of Hindes.

A contract was made with Mr. Walter Cook and a Mr. Morris of Pleasanton to drill an artesian well on the townsite. Flowing water was found at 480 feet. Later the water from this well was used to fill the railroad tank for the train.

The first train ran into Hindes on the San Antonio, Uvalde, and Gulf Railroad on November 19, 1912. Soon thereafter Messrs. J. V. and Oscar Branch came with their families from Pearsall and built a two-story building for a general merchandise store. The following year a petition was granted for a postoffice. Mr. Oscar Branch was postmaster with the office in the Branch Mercantile Store. Other businesses immediately organized included the Hindes State Bank with Hiram Allen the cashier, a hotel built and operated by Mr.

We Honor . . .

And Pay Tribute

To the Hardy Pioneers of
ATASCOSA COUNTY
In this Centennial Year
of 1956



OLIVER
REFRIGERATION
SERVICE

Pleasanton, Texas

LYTLE STATE BANK
LYTLE, TEXAS

CONGRATULATIONS

. . . To the Pioneers
. . . To the Founders
. . . To the Builders
of ATASCOSA COUNTY
. . . On the Occasion
. . . Of this Centennial



LYTLE STATE BANK
LYTLE, TEXAS
On the Job Since 1910

CONGRATULATIONS

. . . To the Pioneers
. . . To the Founders
. . . To the Builders
Of ATASCOSA COUNTY
. . . On the Occasion
. . . Of this Centennial



A & E DRUG STORE
Pleasanton, Texas

Congratulations On
Your 100th Anniversary



UNITED GAS
CORPORATION

Serving the Gulf South

and Mrs. W. E. Yates, and a cotton gin owned by A. Ploch and Sons. Telephone and telegraph lines were built through Hindes to Fowlerton and on to Gardendale.

Cotton and corn were grown extensively in this section at the time. David Hindes shipped the first car of cotton on the new railroad. In 1913 Mr. I. N. Bettison contracted to drill a flowing well for George F. Hindes, located about 1½ miles from Hindes. The well started flowing at 2110 feet, and a big reservoir was built and land was cleared for irrigation. A very interesting project at that time. Cotton, corn, onions, and several kinds of vegetables were grown.

Cattle raising was also an important industry. Shipping pens were built near the railroad and the first cattle were shipped in April, 1913.

On September 22, 1913, Rev. S. H. C. Burgine, Presiding Elder of the San Antonio District of the Methodist Episcopal Church South came to preach the first sermon in Hindes. A church was organized with 23 members. Rev. J. T. Redmon, pastor at Fowlerton, was appointed as part-time pastor in October and preached his first sermon on November 22. There were twenty-four present at the first Sunday School. Mr. Hiram Allen was superintendent, and Miss Carrie Hindes, now Mrs. J. T. Eppright, was organist. Rev. J. A. Atkins was Bishop at that time. Church and Sunday School were held in the Townsite Office and later in the auditorium of the new school. Rev. W. W. McKinney served as pastor for two years. Rev. J. C. Harris also preached in Hindes. Bro. Sid Williams, a Baptist evangelist, held services and Bro. J. F. Kimbal, a Baptist minister, preached a number of times. Later Bro. Williams bought land, built a home, and moved his family from San Antonio to Hindes where he spent his remaining years.

The first school term began in the fall of 1912. In 1913 a bond issue was voted and a brick school house was built. Miss Regina Saunder (now Mrs. L. P. Curry) of Pearsall was the first teacher.

"THE STRAWBERRY CITY OF TEXAS"

The present townsite of Poteet was originally part of Mexico, but in 1834 the Mexican government deeded it and several thousand acres of land to Joaquin de la Garza. Poteet was then nothing but sand, cactus, and jackrabbits, but gradually, after Texas won her independence, people began to populate and develop it.

Poteet is a town named after an accommodating blacksmith who played postman for his neighbors. On horse-and-buggy trips to San Antonio, where he would buy iron and horse-shoe nails, Francis M. Poteet would drop by the postoffice to pick up mail for his friends. His friends became so numerous that postal employees soon began binding the letters. On these packages the name "Poteet" was scribbled.

In time, a one-room postoffice was established in Mr. Poteet's blacksmith shop, several miles north of the town which now bears his name. In 1898 the Poteet post office was moved to the store of Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Mumme near the blacksmith shop.

The terrible drought of 1902 ruined the cotton crop, but it was to prove the making of the town of Poteet, for it spurred Mr. Mumme to hunt for and find water. In 1904 his crews drilled deep, hit the Carrizo strata, and water came in like a gusher. The driller, Tom Ankrom, tied down the whistle on the engine, and people, hearing the signal, came from all around to rejoice over Poteet's first artesian well.

Water was all that the sandy loam of northern Atascosa County needed for diversified truck crops; it also could be tanked for livestock. The news of the artesian water traveled, and the new development soon became known.

A cotton gin was built in 1909 to take care of the only large-scale producing crop. By 1912 two gins ran full time during cotton season, and the land also was producing an abundance of watermelons. Mr. Mumme grew a few strawberries after his well came in (these were planted by L. P. Naranjo who still lives in Poteet), but he had little time to exploit his hobby. The idea stayed with him, however, and a few years passed before he could make his dream come true.

In 1909, Dr. C. F. Simmons of "Simmons' Liver Regulator" built the railroad on the right-of-way given by Charlie Ernst and Mrs. Mumme, and Poteet was connected with the outer

CENTENNIAL GREETINGS

Have Fun in Your 1856 Centennial Clothes

—Then After the Centennial

Bring Your Clothes to the

MAIN CLEANERS

Pleasanton, Texas

WELCOME
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DIXON'S CAFE

Pleasanton, Texas

WELCOME TO
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WESTERN AUTO ASSOCIATE STORE

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Welcome to Centennial Pleasanton Furniture Co.

"The Home of Complete Household
Furnishings"

KELVINATOR APPLIANCES

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Welcome to Atascosa County's Centennial
... WE BELIEVE IN ATASCOSA
COUNTY

VAN'S LUMBER & SUPPLY

North Pleasanton, Texas

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ORA LEE'S HOUSE-OF-BEAUTY

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WELCOME AND SUCCESS
TO THE
CENTENNIAL

Burmeister Motor Company
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WE ARE PROUD OF OUR
ATASCOSA COUNTY
1956 CENTENNIAL

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Campbell

world. Mr. Mumme and his wife eventually deeded 300 acres of pasture land to the Poteet Townsite Company for the founding of a community along the tracks at a point 27 miles south of San Antonio. The transaction was notarized by C. B. Myers. Lewis Moseley staked out the townsite, whose limits extended from the William Smelley home on the east side to Dr. Ward's home on the west.

In 1910 a new Mumme store was opened on the corner now occupied by Page's store, and when the depot was completed, people celebrated the birth of a new town. Businesses which existed at that time were a confectionery started by J. M. Davidson; a post office in the Mumme store; a newspaper, "The Poteet Register," printed by A. N. Coward; a real estate office; a drug store owned by Joaquin Rodriguez; a furniture store owned by Albert Musgraves (now the Avon Theater building); a hotel located where the City Cafe now stands; the Wooden Hotel across the street from the Assembly of God Church; and a livery stable where the Moseley home stands on Fourth Street. Henry Cox did carpentry work, and C. M. Ford had a fur trading business that extended as far as Laredo.

Mr. Mumme continued to amaze his fellow men. In 1911 he grew strawberries which were purchased by a San Antonio hotel at \$10.00 a crate. Next Mr. Mumme brought in a coal mine; however, the product was soft coal, unpopular at the time, and the deposit also played out after several shipments had been made. The mine shaft was a favorite playground for children, but later they gave it a wide berth, for fear of being suspected, after an adventurous group tied tin cans to the tail of a horse and saw the frightened animal plunge to its death in the mine.



The first graduating class from Poteet School. The school building in the background is still standing. Pictured left to right are Prof. McDonald, Nannie Brown, Hunter Barron, Clara Price, Corrine May, and John Duke.

Poteet's children attended school in a frame building located where the Catholic Church is now. E. J. Faseler took over the management of this first school and did much of the teaching assisted by Misses Mary Flake, Willie Newman, and Dorene Choate. Among the names on the roll were Price, Ernst, McCaughan, Coble, Brown, Flake, Choate, Gibson, Vining, Desmuke, Boyd, Roark, Finch, and Rodriguez. It was several years later, in 1913, that J. L. Vining and A. N. Coward went to Austin to lobby in the State Legislature for the Poteet Independent School District. Their effort resulted in the building of a red brick school house which stands in use today waiting to be demolished as soon as the present building program is completed.

Churchgoers first met out-of-doors under the many native trees which shade Poteet. They soon became organized enough to finance church houses. The Methodists built the

GREETINGS TO
ATASCOSA COUNTY
1956 CENTENNIAL

IRENE'S CAFE AND
SERVICE STATION
Campbellton, Texas

We are proud to be a part of
ATASCOSA COUNTY
as it celebrates its Centennial in 1956

BECKHAM REAL ESTATE
8 Years in This County.
Jourdanton, Texas

Congratulations and Best Wishes to the
good people of Atascosa County whom
we have been privileged to serve for the
past twenty-two years.

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We Pay Tribute To Those Pioneers
In Whose Footsteps We Follow
WE ARE HAPPY TO CARRY ON
INTO THE SECOND CENTURY

BENDER'S CAFE
Jourdanton, Texas

WE ARE PROUD
TO BE A PART OF
ATASCOSA COUNTY
As it Celebrates its Centennial in 1956.
— 46 Years in Jourdanton —

GIBSON PHARMACY
Telephone Porter 9-3331
Jourdanton, Texas

American Legion Service
Station

HUMBLE PRODUCTS
BATTERIES — FLATS FIXED
WASH AND GREASE JOBS

AMADOR BROS., Proprietors
Jourdanton, Texas

first church in 1912. Soon after, the Baptists moved the old Gates Valley Church to Poteet, and it was dedicated also in 1912. Then the Catholic Church became well established, as did the Church of Christ and others.

January 5, 1913, a Sunday, was a black day for Poteet. Everybody in town was attending a funeral when fire broke out in the Poteet Hotel. Within an hour, the hotel, Mumme's store, the printing office, and several other stores all went up in flames. There was no fire department nor a water system, despite the area's many wells. Perhaps the whole town would have burned out but for the cement blocks of which the furniture store was built. Those blocks were hand made by Poteet's first contractor, William Smelley, and they still stand in the Avon Theater.

The first settlers had met with hard luck, but they continued to strive to make their town a success. Soon two banks were founded to handle the finances of the town. The First State Bank was built in its present location, and W. E. Fitch was first in charge. The Farmer's Bank was located just east of Davidson's store. C. B. Myers was the cashier.

Pioneer families remember many other Poteet "firsts". There was the first movie, established by J. M. Davidson and operated by Tom Roark. It was only a walled-in affair, and when it rained, no movie could be held. The first business house to have electric lights was Davidson's store. It had a Delco system and was wired by Rob Lott. Eddie Golson had the first barber shop, and after a few years he opened the first cafe. The first depot agent was named Lindley. Mrs. Price was the first president of the P.-T.A. Rose Carr was the first telephone operator in the telephone office installed near the Tom Adams home. Mr. Mumme and Henry Ernst supplied the town with its first water system with pipes laid on top of the ground. The first car in Poteet belonged to Perry McDermott, who had a lumber yard on the present Alamo Lumber Company site.

Other businesses of the town were Leggett's Drug Store in the building which is now the Jordan Hotel, J. L. Vining's lumber yard at the Johnson home, a store run by Howard Price and N. J. Johnson on the corner where Tuttle Motor Co. is now, Oessinger's store, and Lewis Moseley's general store. New neighbors were moving in from all around. Among them were the Hurleys, Mangums, Walls, Lawsons, Machens, and Harrisons.

Although Mr. Mumme had grown Poteet's first strawberries, A. Forge was the first to plant them extensively. This was just before World War I. After the war, G. A. Aigner, a Floridian, came to Poteet to grow them on the Mumme farm. During the first year, strawberries brought \$18.00 a crate. They sold like nothing else from Poteet had ever sold. At last a really paying crop had been established for this small town. By then almost a hundred artesian wells had been drilled around Poteet, and farmers branched out to other crops—English peas, onions, watermelons, peanuts, and other vegetables and fruits. The farmers had a crop for every season.

Business houses lifted their faces, the school built new buildings, more cars were seen, and more industry came to Poteet. Tom Dean became the town's first mayor after its incorporation in 1925. Other mayors in sequence have been A. J. Goodfellow, J. Ward, Jr., C. T. Capel, Dave Shearrer, O. N. Crouch, Glen Cowley, H. J. Ulbrich, and Louis Lehmberg.

The remainder of Poteet's history is almost like yesterday—the influx of new neighbors, the starting of new businesses, and the sons and daughters replacing the fathers and mothers. Poteet survived a great depression and then was faced with World War II. The battle now is against the great lingering drought and the alarming water situation. These have played havoc with most of the cattle raising, for fine cattle have been raised around Poteet (J. V. Gates' Bar-Z Brahms are perhaps the best known).

Irrigated farms still produce the strawberries which were the dream of Poteet's founder, and in April Poteet holds its annual Strawberry Festival, a tradition established in 1948 to show the pride the town feels in bearing the name 'The Strawberry City of Texas.'

Poteet has passed many milestones. It is proud of its past. It has great plans and hopes for the future.

CHARLOTTE IS BORN WITH THE RAILROAD

Perhaps no section of the county has seen greater change in the century since Atascosa County was organized than has the Charlotte community. For the first half of the century the

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San Antonio Trunk Co.

Your Luggage and Gift Headquarters
of the Southwest for 48 Years.

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On Their Centennial



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SOUTHERN BRAND MEAT PRODUCTS.
A BOOSTER FOR 30 YEARS

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SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

We honor and pay tribute to the hardy
pioneers of Atascosa County in this
Centennial Year of 1956.

McCALEB BEAUTY SHOP

The First Beauty Shop in Atascosa County
Hoping to serve another $\frac{1}{2}$ of a century.

North Pleasanton, Texas

WALLINGFORD COUNTRY CLUB

Is holding "Open House"
to the public during the
CENTENNIAL DAYS

October 3 thru 6.

Evening dances after Pageant.

Poteet, Texas

GET SOMETHING EXTRA
FOR YOUR MONEY

—GET

GOLDEN ESSO EXTRA GASOLINE
AT YOUR NEAREST DEALER

—O—

**HUMBLE OIL &
REFINING COMPANY**



A street scene in Charlotte shortly after the founding of the town.

unhurried life of the ranches continued much the same as it always had, but in 1911, Mr. J. E. Franklin came out of Missouri with a proposition to construct a railroad through the county and through what is now the Charlotte community. Landowners who would profit by having a means of shipping their cattle to market were asked to not only make right-of-way grants but were also requested to make outright gifts of land as a bonus to aid in financing the construction of the railroad. George F. Hindes gave several thousand acres as a bonus.

The town of Charlotte was cut out of the old Tobey Ranch in 1910 by J. F. Edwards. The actual development in Charlotte did not begin, however, until 1912 when the first train pulled into town and everyone began to buy lots. The first store was built in Charlotte in 1910 by J. M. Couser on the present location of the Thompson Chevrolet Company. Mr. Couser sold this building to W. M. Wilson, and it was subsequently destroyed by the Gulf storm in 1919. Among the early merchants of Charlotte were S. Fleischman, A. F. Hahn, A. K. McBride, John Neal, Hugh Dixon, and Barrow & Crouch. The Shannon Drug Store, located on the site of the present post office, was a two-story building, the upper floor of which was used for public meetings and dances. This building, the first hotel, and a large hardware store were built by Charlie Mahone of Kansas City.



The train arrives in Charlotte! An occasion for great rejoicing; the coming of the railroad aided the town's growth.

HEY E ' S VARIETY STORE

Where Poteet Saves

Poteet, Texas

We are proud to be a part of Atascosa County as it celebrates its centennial, a part we could not have played without you, our loyal and valued customers.

POTEET PHARMACY

Poteet, Texas

CONGRATULATIONS

. . . To the Founders
. . . To the Pioneers . . . To the Builders
of ATASCOSA COUNTY
. . . On the Occasion
. . . of this Centennial

CHARLOTTE RED & WHITE STORE

"Save the Cash & Carry Way"

One-Stop Shopping Center

Charlotte, Texas

Phone 2151

We salute the hardy Pioneers who
founded Atascosa County in 1856.

HAHN HARDWARE

Phone 2371

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WE PAY TRIBUTE TO . . .
ATASCOSA COUNTY . . .
PIONEERS ON THIS
100th ANNIVERSARY

We, of Tuttle Motor Company, take this occasion to express our appreciation to all who have contributed to the growth and progress of Atascosa County during the past Century.

TUTTLE MOTOR CO.

Poteet, Texas

CENTENNIAL GREETINGS

We Have Watched Atascosa County Grow!
In business since 1911.

GRAY'S RED & WHITE GROCERY STORE

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We honor and pay tribute to the hardy
pioneers of Atascosa County in this
Centennial Year of 1956.

STANDARD BUTANE COMPANY

Poteet, Texas



Saluting Atascosa County for a hundred years
of growth and progress—
And shooting for another century
of still greater achievement.

Reddy Kilowatt
Your Servant of the Century



CENTRAL POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY

PROLOGUE

In this Prologue to the pageant proper, the heralds with their golden trumpets sound the fanfares that bring in representatives of the states, cadets and sailorettes arriving to greet our Centennial Queen. The second fanfare announces the princesses of the Royal Court—and finally, her Imperial Majesty, Miss Centennial.

Episode No. 1—"THE LAND OF THE RED MEN"

It didn't all begin just a century ago. No, the roots hark back to many nations and many peoples. Before the coming of the white man, this land was occupied by the Lipan Indian tribe. We see a typical encampment on the banks of the Atascosa River.

Episode No. 2—"OUR SPANISH HERITAGE"

One of the earliest settlers in what was to become Atascosa County was Col. Jose Antonio Navarro who later donated the land for the first courthouse and was, both before and after the Texas Revolution, a man of great influence throughout South Texas. In this scene we picture Navarro and his family at their hacienda which was located on the banks of the Atascosa River in the North-western part of the county.

Episode No. 3—"AND THE WAGON TRAINS CAME"

Now, down the old Indian trail, down El Camino Real, moved the covered wagons bringing new settlers from the East, to join our first Mexican families.

Episode No. 4—"ATASCOSA COUNTY IS BORN"

Atascosa County was organized by an act of the Sixth Texas Legislature in 1855—this act being approved on January 25, 1856. The first county seat was located at Navatasco where the first court was held, but early in 1858 an election was held to determine on a permanent site for the court house. Here we see the citizens gathered to hear the results of that election.

Episode No. 5—"THE LORD'S DAY"

One of the most important factors in the growth of any community is the spiritual welfare of its people. Although the days, weeks and months were all too short for the tasks before them, these hardy pioneers paused from their arduous labors to give one day to God. Church was not at first held regularly nor was there a building of worship—so people of all denominations met in homes or fields for service.

Episode No. 6—"FRONTIERS OF EDUCATION"

With the Independence of Texas firmly established, our pioneer fore-fathers began to turn their thoughts to the education of their children. One of the earliest schools was located at "Old Somerset"—let us turn back the pages of history and watch a day at school almost a hundred years ago.

Episode No. 7—"THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES"

Scarcely had our county passed its infancy when the War Between the States broke in full fury upon the country. A company was formed and while the strongest members of the community were fighting for the Confederacy the most daring and extensive raid ever launched by the Indians was directed against the County.

Episode No. 8—"THE COMING OF THE RAILROAD"

Perhaps one of the strongest features aiding in the days of reconstruction and in the ultimate development of our County—was the coming of the railroad. The date of 1882 and the first passenger train is due to arrive in Atascosa County—people have traveled miles from all around to meet the first train.

Episode No. 9—"THE TINTYPE ERA"

The day of change was at hand. Women stirred from the kitchen—music took on a different quality. It was the period of the Gay Nineties and the fabulous Dr. Charles Simons was holding the famous land sale at Christine.

Episode No. 10—"WORLD WAR I"

Many men left our county to die in foreign lands. This was the "War to end all Wars".

Episode No. 11—"THE ROARING TWENTIES"

And then Atascosa County threw itself with gusto into the era known as the Roaring Twenties. This scene seeks to recapture some of the gayety of those days.

Episode No. 12—"WORLD WAR II"

The Days of Infancy finds us unprepared, but in the American tradition the people of our country gird for the struggle and once more sends its men and women to make the supreme sacrifice.

Episode No. 13—"THE ATOMIC AGE"

The end of the war ushered in the atomic age and our scene portrays the Atomic Bomb testing at Yucca Flats. Is this the beginning or the End?

GRAND FINALE

And now, we face into our second century. As we review the panorama of our history, it is not to boast, but rather we are humbled that the past has bequeathed to us so rich a heritage, and it is in this spirit that we face forward to meet the challenge of our changing world.

CENTENNIAL FIREWORKS SHOW

WELCOME

We are proud to be a part of Atascosa County as it celebrates its Centennial, a part we could not have played without you, our loyal friends and customers.

Atascosa County has grown as have we, --- together, facing adversity and prosperity.

Chas. T. Troell CHEVROLET Co.

Established 1919

PLEASANTON, TEXAS

WE CONGRATULATE . . .

ATASCOSA COUNTY

. . . ON THIS CENTENNIAL

. . . and pledge to carry on into the New Century . . .
with the best service possible.

**THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK
IN PLEASANTON**

Serving Atascosa County for Over 50 Years



The Wilson Store was the first built in Charlotte. Originally built by J. M. Couser, it was sold to W. M. Wilson about 1912.

Along with the growth of the town a change was taking place on the ranches. Large acreage of the more fertile ranch lands was being put in cultivation. J. H. Presnall was among the first to change to farming from strictly ranching. M. M. Davis was another who cleared some four thousand acres and at one time he had thirty-nine tenant families growing principally cotton. To take care of the cotton produced around the town, Mr. E. P. Stroman built the first cotton gin, which was quickly followed by three others. So much cotton was produced that at one time it took twenty-four hours to get ginned off with all four gins running around the clock.

In 1946 another area stole the spotlight away from King Cotton with the discovery in Charlotte of Black Gold. The production originally found by the Humble Oil Company has been augmented by additional discoveries, and while Charlotte has never been a boom town it has benefitted by the continuously increasing oil production within her trade territory, which now finds some 700 producing oil wells within a radius of ten miles of the city.

Although the principal wealth of the community today is oil, ranching and farming remain important industries. Beef cattle, hogs, cotton, peanuts, feedstuffs, and dairy products comprise the leading output.

BIG PROMOTION LAUNCHES CHRISTINE

Christine was founded in October, 1909, in conjunction with the birth of the Dr. C. F. Simmons Subdivision and the townsite of Imogene on a 95,000 acre tract of land which Dr. Simmons bought from D. and A. Oppenheimer of San Antonio. Alonzo Peeler, still a prominent rancher in this area, leased the ranch from the Oppenheimer brothers and then from Dr. Simmons. It was, at that time, one of the largest ranches in southwest Texas.

Dr. Simmons, after flamboyant advertising in all of the United States and all of her holdings, held a much publicized land auction with more than 5,000 people present. Brown Lake was used as a site for the sale. Out of this 95,000 acres Dr. Simmons founded the two townsites

We Honor and Pay Tribute to the
Hardy Pioneers of Atascosa
County in this Centennial
Year 1956.

JOURDANTON
HARDWARE STORE
21 Years of Hardware Service

Tel. PO 9-3531

Jourdanton, Texas

Centennial Congratulations



to our many friends in
ATASCOSA COUNTY

For 102 years (since 1854) it has been our privilege to serve South Texas retailers, among whom we count our many close friends and customers, merchants of the prosperous and growing communities of our neighboring Atascosa County. We salute you fine people on your 100th Anniversary.

A. B. FRANK COMPANY

1854 • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS • 1956

Welcome to the Centennial

Charlotte State Bank

CHARLOTTE, TEXAS

Member Federal Deposit Corporation

"New Artesia" and "New Pleasanton", which were later named "Christine" and "Imogene" after his daughters. The balance of the acreage was subdivided into tracts consisting of from 10 to 640 acres each and these were sold by bids. With each tract sold there was a lot from each of the two towns thrown in. The sale dragged on through two weeks. At that time there was still 6,500 acres unsold. Alonzo Peeler bought this land in 1912.



The arrival of the train in Christine was greeted by virtually all the citizens of the town as trainloads of new people arrived during Dr. Simmons land auction.

The doctor had built a railroad from McDonna to what is now Christine. There were several ranch houses standing on the 95,000 acres and the doctor announced that he would give these buildings to "old broken-down preachers". "There was more preaching and praying going on there than I ever heard before or since. Sure did bring out a lot of preachers," remarked an old-timer. It is reported that the promotion grossed far more than a million dollars for Dr. Simmons. Christine mushroomed into a boom town. At the same time, Imogene remained a plat of record.

After the opening bids were closed, the homeseekers settled down to enjoy the future of Christine. Until this time there were no houses built. Mr. W. C. Barker erected the first residence. Its first occupants were Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Wilkins. Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Andrews had their St. Louis home dismantled and shipped to Christine in a boxcar. It was the first completed frame house in Christine. Previous residences had been partly frame, tents, or adobe.

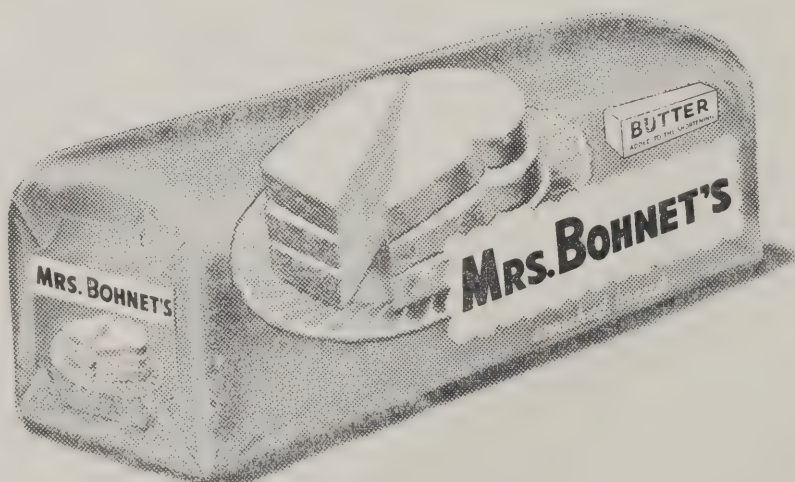
The first business house was built by Frank Hecker. Mrs. George O'Neal operated the first cafe in a tent. Later she moved to the newly erected Depot Hotel. About the same time Mrs. LeGrand opened the Winter Hotel.

By 1910 there were two large department stores in Christine. One was owned by the Parson brothers and the other by Campbell and Franklin. There were two lumber yards owned and operated by the Griffith and Thompson Lumber Company. Other pioneer businesses were: The Kitchen Brothers Candy Shop, J. A. Wilkins Furniture Store, J. R. Decker's Tailor and Barber

I am proud to have had an important part in the growth and development of Atascosa and surrounding counties. For 42 years I have drilled an average of 30 **WATER WELLS** a year.

E. E. SWIERC
Jourdanton, Texas

Centennial Greetings
From



BOHNET BAKING CO.
Made with Fresh
Creamery Butter



In 1911 the four-room frame structure pictured here was erected as the first school building in Christine. Three teachers were employed.

Shop, W. M. Swaim Livery Stables, Baumgarten's Meat Market, Union Trust Co. Bank, Hertzog Lumber Yard, a newspaper called the "Christine Enterprise", and the Owl Drug Store owned by Miss Annie Gillette. The first post office was located in the Owl Drug Store and was operated by Mr. Wassenich. With the exception of the post office, none of these businesses have survived. Telephone service was installed in 1911 with Miss Polly Franklin as operator.

Since no provisions were made for a public school during the opening year, Miss Willie Newman opened a private school. She also taught the first public school which was opened in 1910 in a tabernacle near the center of town. In 1911 a four-room frame building was erected, and three teachers were employed, Mr. Mauldin and Misses Newman and Godgion.

Dr. Simmons began construction of a church building and offered it to the first denomination organized. The Methodists succeeded in organizing as early as 1910 and thus fell heir to the building, although Dr. Simmons died before it was finished. In 1911 the Baptists were organized by Rev. Henderson who served as a missionary in this district until 1928. Their first meetings were held in the school house. Later they remodeled a store building and used it until 1923 when they built an up-to-date building.

Shortly after the opening of Christine a company was organized for the purpose of propagating the silkworm industry. Twenty acres of land was bought and planted in mulberries, but a drought occurred and the project was given up.

Christine's lettuce crops were in demand over a wide area for many years. The area is also a natural honey-producing section. Bees are still shipped in from as far north as South Dakota every year. A local apiary is owned and operated by Luther Cughran.

Ranching was the most important industry in this section before the town of Christine was founded and it still holds an important place. However, it is gradually being replaced by farming. Until 1920 Christine ranked first in cattle shipment in the county, but due to their loss of



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TO OUR

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414 Mission Road

Phone LE 2-1491

San Antonio, Texas

the railroad and to the droughts it is much farther down the line at the present time. A. M. Peeler was the first to ship anything on the railroad which came into Christine—three carloads of cattle and hogs in 1909.

The first water supply was brought from Poteet by railroad. Several wells had been drilled but none was successful. In 1916 bonds were voted to build a reservoir to supply the town with water. Later bonds were voted to erect a tower. This was done to increase water power in case of fire. The tower was sold for salvage in 1956. The money received was donated toward the building of a swimming pool in the near future. Since the original reservoir was not successful for a water supply, bonds were voted to drill another well. In the early 1950's the reservoir was sold to finance the drilling of still another well.

Early in 1910 a mass meeting was held for the purpose of electing temporary officers. The following were elected: Dr. Duncan, mayor; J. A. Wilkins, M. B. Baily, J. P. Bunlegh, Green Franklin, and W. B. Reece, aldermen; James Andrews, marshal; and C. Base, clerk and treasurer. On October 22, 1910, the town of Christine was incorporated with the following officers elected: B. H. Estes, mayor; J. A. Wassenich, clerk and treasurer; and the temporary aldermen re-elected.

FREED SLAVES FORM A COLONY IN COUNTY

Lagunillas, a community which was located in the western portion of the county was originally settled just after the Civil War by several families of freed slaves. The group had a school there and presumably were farmers by profession.

About 1900 in or about this same location was established the community of Crown. Among the pioneer families of the new community were the Crouchs, Desmukes, and Barrows. The area was primarily a cotton producing section. There existed a gin; three stores, one owned by Judge H. D. Barrow which sold everything from harness to men's collars; and a school.

A boll weevil infestation virtually wiped out the cotton farmers of the area. The final death blow to the community came in 1937 when its school was consolidated into the Charlotte school district. Although there is a great deal of oil activity in that section at this time, all vestiges of the town have long since disappeared.



The Lagunilla School in the late 1890's.

CONGRATULATIONS
To The Good People of
ATASCOSA COUNTY
and to
OUR DEALERS

Who have helped make this
Centennial possible.

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WATTS HARDWARE
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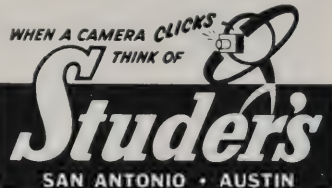
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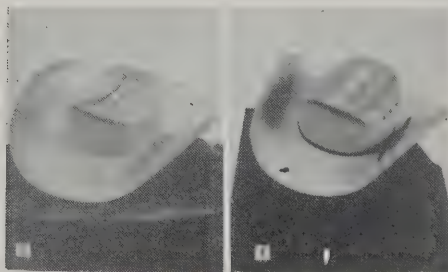
We honor and pay tribute
to the hardy Pioneers of
ATASCOSA COUNTY
In This Centennial Year
of 1956.

—O—

Broadway Sausage Co.

1706 Broadway
San Antonio, Texas

Best Wishes From GRAY'S



Custom Made Western Hats

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SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

NUMEROUS COMMUNITIES SPRING FROM FARM COLONIZATION

La Parita

John and Joe Chupick about the year 1922 purchased 4,300 acres from the Oden family. This land they divided into 43 one hundred acre tracts. Twenty to sixty acres of each tract was cleared, the land was fenced, and a house was built on each. The land was then sold to families who came primarily from Lavaca and Fayette counties after the Chupicks had widely publicized their colonization project in papers throughout the area.

During the time of their project, the brothers built a store and lumber yard to supply their needs. Thus was the community of La Parita born. A school was also later built there for the children of the new settlers. When the building ceased, the lumber yard was put out of existence. A store owned by the Matocha family still remains. The school was consolidated into the Jourdanton School District several years ago.

Fashing

The Hickock Ranch Subdivision in the southeastern portion of the country gave rise to the community of Fashing. A store and a school were built to supply the needs of the settlers. Both are still in existence.

Dobrowolski

Another farm colonization project was that which gave rise to the community of Dobrowolski. Located on land which was formerly part of Campbell-Zanderson tract, Dobrowolski has a store and several residences. A school which once existed there has been consolidated with the Charlotte School District.



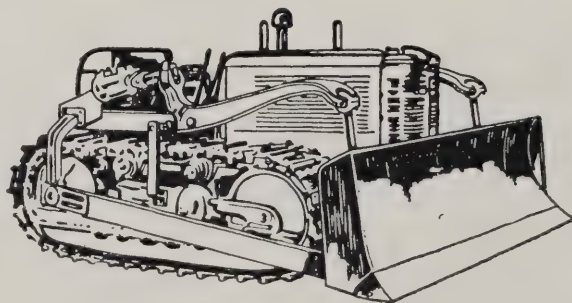
A group of citizens gathered in front of the store in Crown.

JOURDANTON GROWS FROM A BLUEPRINT

Jourdanton, the present county seat of Atascosa County, was founded in September, 1909, by Jourdan Campbell, for whom the town was named, and Col. T. H. Zanderson, his partner in the ownership of the 40,000 acre Tobey Ranch adjoining the town. Captain C. S. Young is generally credited with laying out the town, which literally grew from a blueprint. The whole project was begun so that the Artesian Belt Railroad would come into this section of the county. The town had to pay a \$50,000 bonus to get the railroad.

Lumber and other materials rolled into the townsite by the wagon load and virtually overnight business structures and residences began to spring up. On a Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in 1909 a three day auction sale of town lots was held. Low rate excursions from every

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CONGRATULATES
the wonderful people of

ATASCOSA COUNTY

on their fine accomplishments over the
past 100 years and wish for all a good
life and happy times.

—O—

KALLISON'S

Across the Street from the Courthouse in
San Antonio, Texas

CENTENNIAL GREETINGS

—O—

*Martin Linen
Supply Co.*

SERVING ATASCOSA
COUNTY FOR 50 YEARS

—O—

"Cleanliness Is Health Insurance"

COMPLIMENTS TO OUR DEALERS

FROM

STRAUS FRANK CO.

point in Texas brought in thousands of people. Among the activities held in connection with the sale were a three day barbecue; a dance each night in the covered pavilion; a bronc-busting exhibition; and an Old Fiddlers' Contest which offered a twenty-five dollar prize.

At this time Peter F. Watson of the Jourdanton Land Company was offering to sell land at only \$15.00 an acre. By 1910 when W. M. O'Brien offered land two miles from the townsite for sale the price had gone up to \$20.00 per acre. The fertile soil of the area produced abundant cotton. Livestock, primarily hogs, were also raised in great numbers. The Steinle brothers gin was operating with a daily capacity of fifty bales, and hogs were driven into town and shipped via railroad to San Antonio markets.

Among the businesses operating in Jourdanton during its early days were the Texas-Mexican Lumber Co. with Duck Morris as sales manager; the Steinle Gin; the Central Hotel operat-



A street scene in Christine shortly after the town was founded in 1909.



Wagons move lumber into the townsite of Jourdanion in 1909.

ed by W. W. Willis; the Kempf Tailor Shop; the Jourdanton Telephone Co. operated by August and R. L. Richter; the Jourdanton Bakery operated by J. C. Applewhite; Jourdanton Meat Market owned by G. V. Wright; the Cryer Barber Shop, Bath, and Pool Room; and Blunt's Tin Shop. W. A. Purgason and Son were dealers in everything from dry goods and groceries to crockery. There were two restaurants, LeGrand's and J. H. Null's. In 1910 the New York Racket Store operated by R. E. Wallhoefer opened its doors to the public, and Sam Fields was preparing to open a department store with stock he had ordered from St. Louis. Clothes could be cleaned and pressed at Dossey's Pantitorium.

In 1909 the capital of the Atascosa County State Bank in Jourdanton was \$50,000. By 1910 the two story brick building which housed the bank was completed. The officials of the bank were George F. Hindes, president; James A. Waltom, vice-president; and R. L. Witt, cashier. The stockholders of the bank at that time included W. M. Abernethy, R. Allen, M. Bowyer, C. S. Brodbent, John Campbell, R. W. Dossey, Miss Eva Nail, B. B. Daughtrey, L. H. Ernst, A. S. Easterling, G. L. Eidson, August Eckhart, Johnson Griffith, T. D. Harrison, R. J. Lauderdale, J. W. Lowe, R. R. Smith, George W. Martin, C. B. Myers, L. D. McAda, James Marshall, John H. Garner, Frank Hindes, L. S. Johnson, J. W. Crouch, C. A. Crouch, Mrs. D. K. Bowen, R. E. Neal, Hiram Aller, Mrs. A. M. Nail, E. O. Prosser, W. A. Purgason, J. H. Presual, James H. Simms, H. F. Smith, Charles Tausch, C. T. Tom, E. M. Tom, T. H. Zanderson, John T. Wilson, W. W. Willis, Jourdan Campbell, R. P. Coon, G. F. Hindes, James A. Waltom, and R. L. Witt.

It was about this time also that the Monitor office was moved from Pleasanton to Jourdanton. It seems that while the machinery and other material were being loaded into the wagons, a lot of curious people stood around and "gave advice", especially when the huge drum cylinder was being rolled out. Plenty of advice but no offers to help! So a sign went up: NO SUG-

YOU'VE MADE BLACKWELL YOUR
FAVORITE PEAR BURNER SINCE
1917. OUR DEALERS JOIN US
IN SAYING . . .

THANK YOU !



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**A salute to the Founders of
ATASCOSA COUNTY**

—
We are proud of our association with the
sons and daughters of the pioneers.

—
T. J. PETTIT
GENERAL CONTRACTORS

San Antonio, Texas

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
MANY FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS
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Maker of Fine Shirts, Shorts
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The group pictured above were the first officials of the city of Jourdanton in 1910. Pictured are R. E. Wallhoefer, Dr. J. M. Moore, Dr. Merrick, George Martin, John McConnell, J. M. Dixon, W. H. Hill, J. W. Osborne, and Judge Errington.

GESTIONS NEEDED—DARN YOU—LIFT! That quieted the know-it-alls! And the wagons soon creaked their way westward towards Jourdanton.

Law and order was not always all that it should have been. One local lady was willing to pay a reward of \$300 to anyone who saw to it that a cattle thief caught with any of her cattle was convicted and placed in jail. In some cases, rewards were not offered, however. The offender was merely taken to a tree and treated to a "necktie party".

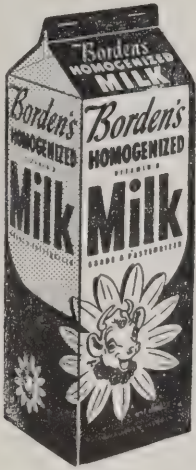
Perhaps the resident of Jourdanton who had come from the farthest distance was Jeems Marger. A native of ancient Egypt, he had become a nurseryman and truck gardener in this area.

By 1910 Jourdanton had been designated as a post office with T. D. Harrison as postmaster. The town also had direct mail service from San Antonio and a telephone system.

Two churches existed in the city at this time. The Methodist Church was organized in 1909 with the following members: Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Billingsley, Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Easterling, W. H. Purgason family, Carter family, Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Daughery, and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Ernst. The original church was held in a tent across the street from the present church location. Also in 1909 the Baptist Church was organized into the Rio Grande association. Charter members included R. L. Witt and family, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Parker, and Sam Hethcock. Rev. A. P. Smith was the first pastor. The first church building was erected in 1910 at its location on Quality Ridge.

The first public school was a frame structure located in the western section of the town. In 1909 over a hundred students were listed on the school roles. In fact attendance had increased so much that the employment of a third teacher had become necessary. In 1910 the school was enlarged to accomodate the growing attendance.

The Borden Co.
SAN ANTONIO



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MILK

and
ICE CREAM

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Congratulations on your 100th
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COMPANY**

**ASPHALTIC CONCRETE
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1931 -- Silver Anniversary -- 1956

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ATASCOSA COUNTY
ON THIS CENTENNIAL

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CONSTRUCTION CO.**

Pleasanton, Texas

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San Antonio, Texas

Typical of the reactions to Jourdanton's amazing growth were those of two ministers who preached in the area during the beginning of the town. Rev. Sid Williams wrote in a letter, "I believe in the whole of southwest Texas. I still believe in Jourdanton. I saw the water works tower go up while I was in the town. I drank the water and carried a bottle of it home with me. I rode on one of the railroads that passes through Jourdanton. I saw them working on the sidings where the Edwards railroad crosses with the Artesian Belt. I saw the growth of Jourdanton. A more beautiful townsite is not to be found in this section of Texas." The Rev. N. A. Briggs had this to say: "Jourdanton caps the climax. Two years ago there weren't even any houses. Today, in 1910, the place is almost a city, with stores, a bank, a drug store, two large hotels, a cold storage plant, three new and substantial church buildings, and happy people. Land was quoted at from \$15 to \$100. If I again go that way in two years, I am prepared to be more surprised than ever."

Jourdanton did continue to grow—from an estimated 700 population in 1909 to well over 3,000 today. The discovery of oil in 1942 brought new wealth into the community and a new influx of inhabitants.



The old Hilburn school in Jourdanton is the first known school building located in the west section of town; it accomodated all grades.

THE RAILROAD GIVES RISE TO NEW TOWNS

Coughran

W. A. Coughran, about the year 1912, gave the San Antonio, Uvalde, and Gulf Railroad a right-of-way through his land. He then decided to develop a town on the railroad, and the town of Coughran was thus born.

A store, bank, hotel, cotton gin, school and postoffice building were constructed. Homes were also built to attract new people to the townsite. A wonderful artesian well was drilled which has given an abundance of soft and pure water for the people of this community throughout all the years.

We are proud to be a part of
ATASCOSA COUNTY
As it celebrates its Centennial in 1956.

WINSTON WILEY

Phone 4411

Pleasanton, Texas

We Pay Tribute To The Pioneers
In Whose Footsteps We Follow.



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Manufacturers of Swimming Pool Equipment
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for the Removal of Iron, Dirt, Sulphur & Hardness.

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San Antonio, Texas

We Pay Tribute
. . . To Those Pioneers
In Whose Footsteps We Follow.
We are happy to carry on into
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GREETINGS FROM
"YOUR FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR"
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VETERINARY SUPPLY SERVICE
Everything For Your Livestock
Poultry and Pets
Since 1929

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Pleasanton, Texas

Some of the very early settlers in the Coughran community were W. A. Coughran; H. A. Griffith; M. C. Everitt; Spurgeon Wood; Campbell Witten; Alf Beadle, who owned the first store; and many others who were attracted to the little town. There was much farm land around Coughran, well adapted to the raising of watermelons, cotton, corn, and other grains. Watermelons, especially, did very well around Coughran, and they were shipped out by the carloads. Cotton was also raised in quantity, and brought to Coughran to be ginned. Much cotton also came to the gin from Blackhill, Verdi, and Leal. For many years, hundreds of bales of cotton were ginned and shipped away.

The first school house accomodated a one-teacher school. Years went by, and it finally became a two teacher school; then back to one. It is now a part of the Pleasanton Independent School District.

During the past years, the townsite proper has declined in population; however, the farming lands around the community are just as fertile as ever.

Leming

Leming was named for P. B. Leming of Cape Gerardeau, Missouri, who was interested in the townsite development on the San Antonio, Uvalde, and Gulf Railroad in 1912. As Leming began to grow, Las Gallinas, which was about a mile north of it, began to diminish and gradually the business houses were moved to the railroad which ran through Leming.



The McCoy Gin, no longer in operation, once ginned round the clock for the farmers of the surrounding area.

McCoy

The little community of McCoy was founded in 1913, like so many others, with the coming of the railroad. The townsite was named for W. A. McCoy, a prominent rancher and cattleman in that area. The land was donated by Mr. McCoy, and the townsite was cut out of one of his pastures. He was the husband of lMrs. Stella Lee McCoy, who stil resides in Pleasanton, Texas. During the early days, McCoy had a postoffice, a good gin, several stores, and supported by a large farming and ranching area. Its school was later consolidated with the Pleasanton Independent School District.

We Are Proud
To Be A Part Of
Atascosa County
As It Celebrates Its Centennial
In 1956

JENDRY CHEVROLET
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We are proud to be a part of
Atascosa County as it cele-
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Atascosa County
for 12 years.

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Complete Insurance Service

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WELCOME
CENTENNIAL VISITORS

Roberta S. Hunt Agency
Pleasanton, Texas

JACK & RUTH HUNT

COMPLIMENTS
ROLAND SCHULZE

JOHN DEERE DEALER

Pleasanton, Texas

North Pleasanton

This little city, adjoining Pleasanton, was platted and laid out in 1913 by the NUECES VALLEY TOWNSITE COMPANY, M. E. Leming, President. At that time, it was the division point for the different divisions of the San Antonio, Uvalde & Gulf Railroad. Its railroad industry consisted of a modern Round House and Shops, the Operating Department, and also the Engineering and Maintenance of Way Departments of the railroad. Being the division point of the railroad, a large number of railroad men lived in North Pleasanton, and the early payroll of the S. A. U. & G. R. R. Co. was alleged to be about \$15,000.00 per month in 1913, exclusive of construction work. During that year of 1913, it was pointed out to the public that a modern bank building was being erected which, with fixtures, cost approximately \$10,000.00. A two-story brick Depot and Office Building was also completed for the offices of the S.A.U. & G.R.R. Company. The lines of S.A.U. & G.R.R. Co., went from San Antonio to Corpus Christi, Crystal City, Carrizo Springs, and Uvalde, forming a junction at North Pleasanton.

The railroad shops were later discontinued in North Pleasanton, however, it still forms an important artery of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad Lines. North Pleasanton has continued to grow through the years—in 1920, its population was 364, and today its population is well over 1000 persons.

Some of the very early residents of North Pleasanton were H. C. Lippard; H. Clifford; W. L. Payne; A. Oliver; D. Stanfill; Z. S. King; Henry Owens; and A. P. Leming; some of the very early business houses were: Gulf Coast Hotel; King Grocery Co.; Page Hotel; W. General Merchandise; G. H. Hill Drug Store. and of Mrs. Stella Lee McCoy, who still



This group of children attended the first Verdi School.

VERDI NAMED FOR TOWN IN FRANCE

Verdi, like many of the smaller communities of the county, has prospered through the years from its farming lands. The community was named by Joseph Perrigross, a Frenchman, after a community in France. The history surrounding this area is very old, since there is record of "The School on Lucas Creek", prior to 1860. A postoffice was established on January 10, 1891, and was called Verdi. Finally, the school became known as the Verdi School. After the founding of the postoffice, there was a store, a school and a church. The last vestige of Verdi as a town passed when the school was recently annexed to the Pleasanton Independent School District.

CONGRATULATIONS

To the Pioneers — To the Founders
To the Builders of Atascosa County,
On the occasion of this Centennial
Year, 1956.

—0—

- THE GRILL -

7 Years of Fine Cafe Service

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GREETINGS . . .

And a Welcome . . .

To All Centennial Visitors . . .

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WE ARE PROUD

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AS IT CELEBRATES ITS
CENTENNIAL IN 1956.

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Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Coward

JOURDANTON, TEXAS

WE PAY TRIBUTE

To those Pioneers in Whose Footsteps
we Follow.

We are happy to carry on into the
Second Century.

PRUETT ONE-STOP SERVICE
PRUETT

APPLIANCE & HARDWARE

104 Main
PLEASANTON, TEXAS

Compliments of

JOHN B. ROGERS
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Cut FEED COSTS

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Root Plowing
and Seeding with
CATERPILLAR D8 TRACTOR
and **HOLT ROOT PLOW!**

MR. CATTLEMAN: A sound investment for 1956 is the root-plowing and seeding of brushland. Benefits derived by soil conservation District Cooperators in 1955 emphasize this fact.



Pasture 1. Frio SCD. August, 1955

\$13 per acre lease? No, but this pasture, adjoining the above pasture, was rootplowed in March, 1955 at a cost of \$10, seeded with blue panic grass for \$2 plus another \$1 for lease. From March to August it received 8 inches of rain and was producing 9 tons of forage per acre. If this man was paying a \$13 per acre lease his grass is costing him only \$1.44 per ton to grow. A much higher quality grass than pasture 1. Too, at 100 pounds of grass per pound of beef his cost of producing is \$0.07 per pound!

THIS \$1. per acre is the average lease paid, for rangeland such as this. Past overgrazing plus drouth has reduced returns from this land to 1/8 ton of forage per year. Your grass is costing you \$8 per ton to grow. Too, it's not of the highest quality. It takes 100 pounds of grass to produce a pound of beef, 2000 pounds of grass at \$8 equals 20 pounds of beef costing \$0.40 per pound.

OR THIS



Pasture 2. SCD. Across the Fence, August 1955

Wm. K.



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MACHINERY CO.
Caterpillar®
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8th Annual SAN ANTONIO STOCK SHOW and RODEO Feb. 8th-17th • 1957

Tickets: \$3.60

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All Tickets Include
Admission to Grounds

W. L. JONES

San Antonio Livestock Exposition & Rodeo
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PLEASE MAIL.....SEATS AT \$.....TO

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CITY..... COUNTY.....

TOTAL \$.....

Check enclosed ☐ Bill to me ☐ Cash enclosed ☐

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ATASCOSA COUNTY

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San Antonio, Texas

BEST WISHES FROM

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BOB GRAVES

CA 7-2477 or Cotulla, Texas 483

John Clay & Company, Inc.
LIVE STOCK COMMISSION

Office Phone CA 7-2477

San Antonio, Texas

EL CAMINO REAL

Of all the old roads crossing Atascosa County, the oldest and most interesting is El Camino Real, which long before it received that name, was an old Indian trail, along which were established the rancherias of the various confederacies. Proof of the assumption that this was an Indian Highway before the coming of the white man can be found right here in the county when one follows the old road, especially in the southwestern part of the county. Through this region, as long as one stays near the old road, can be picked up artifacts almost anywhere, although they become hard to find when one wanders a mile or so away from this road. Arrowheads are not easy to find unless one is fortunate enough to find the site of an old Indian village.

Today the road is marked with granite boulders every five miles. The Camino Real ran from Nacogdoches to San Antonio and then split, with one branch known as the Presidio Road going through Castroville and then almost on a straight line to Guerrero, where was located the mission San Juan Bautista. Founded in 1699 this mission was later moved to San Antonio and became the famous Alamo. The other branch followed the San Antonio River out of town to about where the community of Losoya now is, curved westward, crossed the Medina, and followed the approximate route of the old Highway 9 to Haiduke just above the old overpass. Then it bore westward, passing between Poteet and Pleasanton, crossing the Salt Branch near the old Hilburn ranch house, crossing the Jourdanton-Poteet road just beyond the Jackson place, crossing the Jourdanton-Charlotte road between the old Netardus place and Rosse's place. The road crossed the La Parita at the old Jones place, swung more westerly, passing about five miles south of Charlotte near Davis Switch, crossing the San Miguel at Hindes, crossing the Nueces near Cotulla, and then to Presidio. This road was marked in 1918 by the state of Texas as the original Camino Real.

THE COUNTY'S GREATEST MYSTERY

"Dead Man's Tank" on Dick Wiley's place three miles west of Christine is the greatest mystery this county has to offer. Henry Yelvington gave a very good account of this place in an article in the San Antonio Express of December 31, 1934, and the following is quoted from it.

"Probably one of the surest bits of evidence that this easterly road was the original Laredo and Monterrey road was the finding a few years ago of 69 skeletons of men, women, and children in one spot where a settlement existed on the banks of a small lake, or rather a slough, about three hundred yards south of the markings of the old road.

Dick Wiley, whose place is about three miles west of Christine, was putting up a dam in the slough to make a tank when plow and scraper began unearthing skeletons. This was in 1928. He had the workmen proceed carefully and before the tank was completed there was a huge pile of human skeletons. Fifty-nine were found whole, but most of the bones crumbled when air struck them. There was the skeleton of a baby which apparently died in its mother's arms. Several of the skeletons had arrows in them. One arrow was found sticking in the jaw bone of one of the skeletons.

Most of the bones were confined in a small area of what had apparently been the main room of a fortress of logs, but several were scattered about in other places. As the entire plot was covered by two or more feet of dirt, there is no telling how many more might be found if the entire locality were excavated. Pieces of pottery were also found. And the great logs of the walls of a room 20 x 100 feet in which most of the skeletons were piled, were unearthed whole, many of them having the bark on, but they crumbled when air struck them. Some of the skulls of the skeletons were crushed, and all evidence indicated that the Lipan Indians, who were known as the most skillful and probably blood-thirsty of all Texas Indians, wiped out the colony.

So far as I have been able to ascertain this settlement has never been definitely identified, but I have been told that Clement Hoyt, who wrote something about the find in 1930, had received a letter from Spain containing the information that the skeletons were those of

Best Wishes!

CATTLE

Rocky Reagan, Jr.
Leslie Fry
Prince Wood
A. D. Gabrysch
Billy Traylor
Ben Hopson

SHEEP - GOATS - HOGS

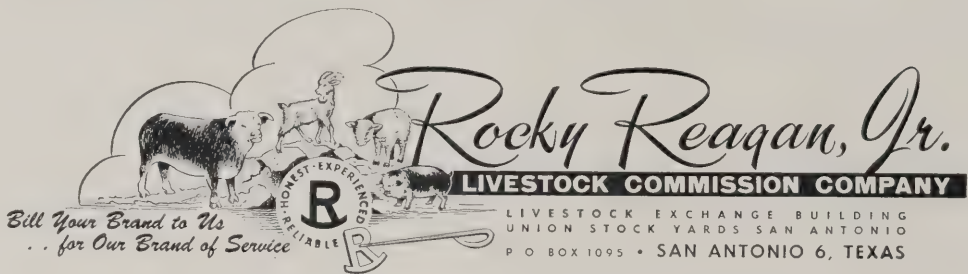
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PEARSALL,

TEXAS

Spanish settlers who founded a settlement there even before the Padres came to San Antonio and were working mines "three days' journey" from the settlement when the Indians made their fateful raid. According to this information, the mines were on "the river" three days' journey away and the ore was brought back to the settlement where it was smeltered. This is particularly borne out by the fact that bits of slag, such as comes from ore, are scattered in the soil all about the place. But no mines or indication of mines have ever been found on any river "three days' " journey away. Another feature of this settlement is that even today may be seen distinctly the outline of a moat dug around the small island on which the fortress was built. About a quarter of an acre is completely surrounded by water which reaches a depth of several feet when the moat is filled. The island is higher than the land around, showing that the dirt from the ditch was placed on the island. The place where the building stood is bare ground, nothing growing there even now, though thick underbrush covers practically all the other part of the settlement."



FOR FIFTY YEARS

WE HAVE served the people of Atascosa County and South Texas. Through our advertising connections we have helped to build every town in Atascosa County, including Pleasonton, Jourdanton and Campbellton.

In printing your Centennial Program we wish to congratulate the people who are responsible for its success.

Compliments of

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"Service House of the South"

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"ICE COLD ICE"

North Pleasanton, Texas

WE HONOR AND PAY TRIBUTE

To The Hardy Pioneers of
Atascosa County in This
Centennial Year of 1956

**TOM ROYAL TRACTOR
COMPANY**

Ferguson Tractors
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PLEASANTON, TEXAS



A SALUTE . . .

To Graves Peeler and Roy Hindes Here
Demonstrating The Effectiveness Of
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We Honor and Pay Tribute to the
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ATASCOSA COUNTY
in this Centennial Year of 1956

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1919 North Comal St.
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Best Wishes From

MELTON PROVISION CO.

U. S. Government Inspected Meat Packers

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BEST WISHES TO OUR
FRIENDS OF
ATASCOSA COUNTY

STEVERNAGEL PACKING CO.

1325 S. Brazos St.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

WE ARE GRATEFUL

To the brave men and women who
continued the western movement and
settled in Atascosa County, and it is
ours to carry on and add our best
efforts to build for the future.

THE FLOWER BOWL

On Hwy. 281, two miles North of
Pleasanton, Texas

We Handle Trees, Shrubs and
Ornamental Plants.

WE ARE PROUD

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As It Celebrates Its Centennial
In 1956

JAMES L. HOUSE & SONS

Dirt Contractors

20 Years of Continuous Service In
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Jourdanton, Texas

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As It Celebrates Its Centennial In 1956.

Gonzales
Production Credit
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Jourdanton, Texas

Operating 22 Years
In The County

Jourdanton State Bank

WELCOME CENTENNIAL VISITORS

WE HAVE WATCHED ATASCOSA COUNTY GROW —

We are proud to be a part of this County as it celebrates its centennial. Atascosa County has grown and so has this bank, thanks to YOU our loyal and valued customers.

It is our sincere hope that during the coming years we can continue to serve and grow, ever mindful of the fine traditions so well established by the hardy pioneers a hundred years ago.

Jourdanton State Bank

Jourdanton, Texas

WELCOME CENTENNIAL
VISITORS



**DAIRY
QUEEN**

HOWARD LOWE,
Proprietor

WHEN BETTER AUTOMOBILES
ARE BUILT BUICK WILL
BUILD THEM

WALTER PURSCH
MOTORS

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WELCOME

YERKES
LUMBER & SUPPLY
All Kinds of Building
Materials

Pleasanton, Texas

Welcome To The

ATASCOSA COUNTY
CENTENNIAL

BURTON'S
VARIETY STORE

Pleasanton, Texas

This page is purchased in respectful memory of

THOMAS R. BRITE and his wife, MARY L. FULLER BRITE;

and their two sons,

W. T. (Bill) BRITE and CHARLES H. BRITE



Thomas R. Brite and Mary L. Brite, in 1854, were among the first settlers of that territory later to be known as Atascosa County. Thomas R. Brite was the first Tax Assessor and Collector of Atascosa County in 1856; he died in 1859 at the age of 35 years while serving the county as County Treasurer.

W. T. (Bill) Brite was born July 24, 1856, in Atascosa County, and would have been 100 years of age during this Centennial year. He died on March 1, 1939.

Charles H. Brite was a pioneer of the county and is remembered by old timers as the editor of the "Verdi Sifter" Column in the newspaper many years ago. He passed away in 1911.

Dedicated during the 100th year of Atascosa County by grateful descendants.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ATASCOSA COUNTY ON ITS CENTENNIAL
from

TREVINO TRUCK LINE

5 years of efficient and prompt delivery service
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Mr. & Mrs. Henry C. Trevino, Jr., owners
and Staff

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Jesus Benitez
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--- AND PLEDGE TO CARRY ON INTO THE NEW CENTURY ---
WITH THE BEST SERVICE POSSIBLE.

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Pleasanton, Texas



One of the early cars on a road in the county shortly after the turn of the century.



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Atascosa County

. . . Pioneers On This

100th Anniversary

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L. A. Hooge Company

GROWERS AND SHIPPERS

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

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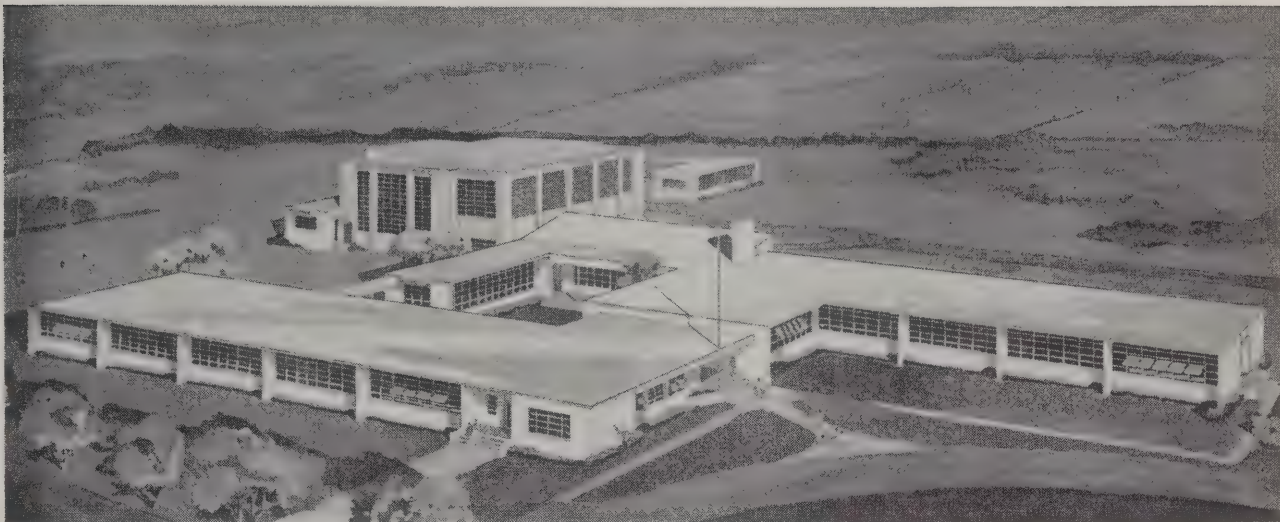
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

AND

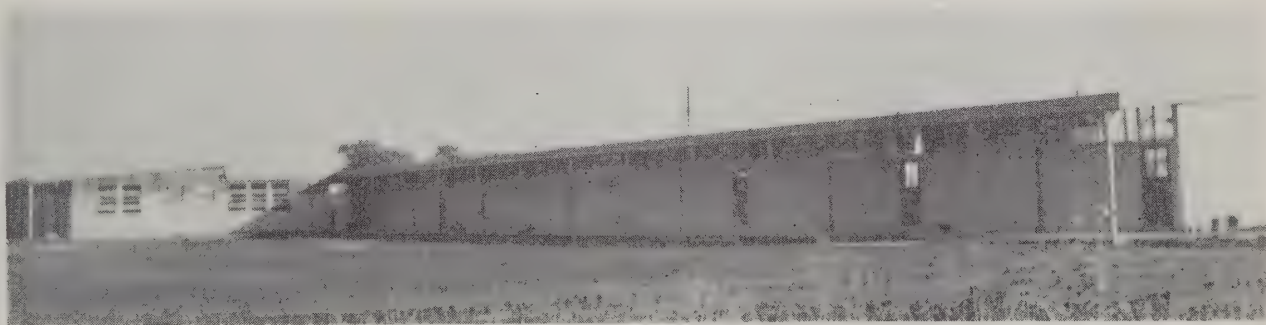
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One-stop service. We furnish plans, secure FHA-VA or conventional financing, provide competent labor contractors and deliver dependable building materials on anything from a small repair job to the finest home.

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PLEASANTON



On Our 100th Anniversary

We congratulate Atascosa County on this Centennial—And pledge to carry on into the new Century with the best possible service.

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Have Your Centennial Attire
Cleaned and Pressed at

LEE RASCO CLEANER

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Welcome Centennial Visitors

BUTLER'S SERVICE STATION

Highway 281
Pleasanton, Texas

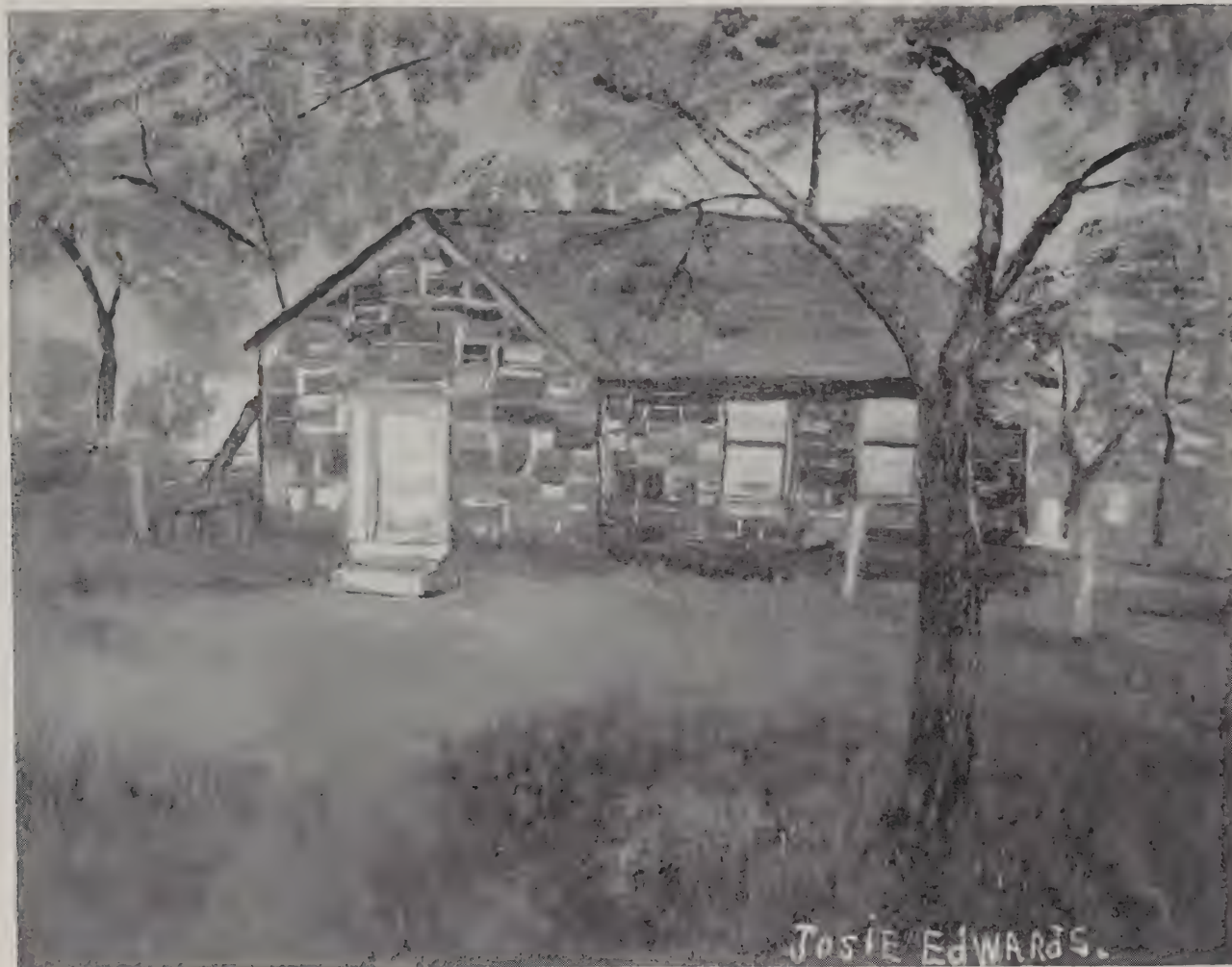
Congratulations to Atascosa County on your 100th Birthday



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to a wonderful county now 100 years YOUNG—and growing lustily! As a mere youngster of 57 summers, SAMSCO has been privileged to work with your progressive citizens all through those years for the betterment of ranching, farming and industry. Continuing that cooperation—just watch this section grow!

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GOODRICH

The Two Greatest Products, Whether It Is For Work Or Pleasure
For The Person That Demands The Best.

In Atascosa County We Have Them Both.



Observe the Pleasant Look on The Person That Uses Both of 'Em.

Visit the TEXACO Dealer in Atascosa County often. He always
likes to see you, **Not Only During Centennial Week.**

All of us are proud to have been a part of Atascosa County the
last 100 years.



TEXACO E. H. WEHMAN GOODRICH

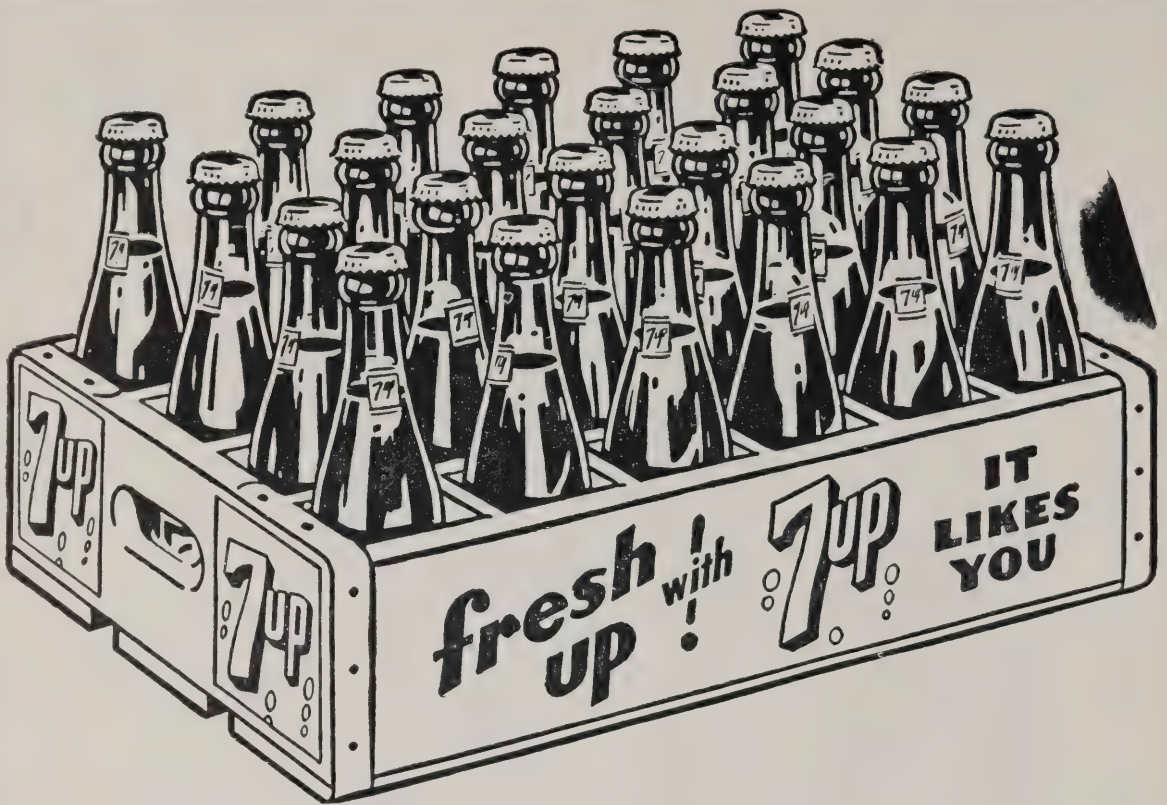
Richard Wehman - Porfirio Arguijo - Eugene Gonzales - Bubba Wehman

2055 Phones 2033

Pleasanton, Texas



A group of early Masons from Pleasanton and surrounding territory.



7-UP BOTTLING CO.
P. O. Box 5126 — San Antonio, Texas

BETTER THAN GOOD —

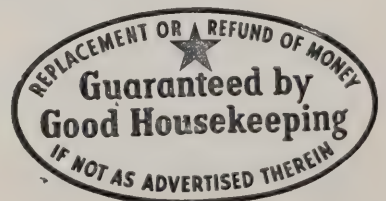
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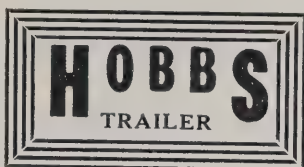
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San Antonio 7 Texas
Yard Phone — CA 3-6331

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FROM

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San Antonio, Texas

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WE ARE PROUD

. . . TO BE A PART OF

. . . ATASCOSA COUNTY

AS IT CELEBRATES ITS
CENTENNIAL IN 1956

L A B A T T

Wholesale Grocery Company

300 North San Marcos St.

San Antonio 7, Texas

WE HONOR . . .

AND PAY TRIBUTE
TO THE HARDY PIONEERS OF
ATASCOSA COUNTY
IN THIS CENTENNIAL YEAR
OF 1956

NATIONAL, INC.,
Wholesale Grocers

421 N. Medina

San Antonio 7, Texas

WE HONOR . . .

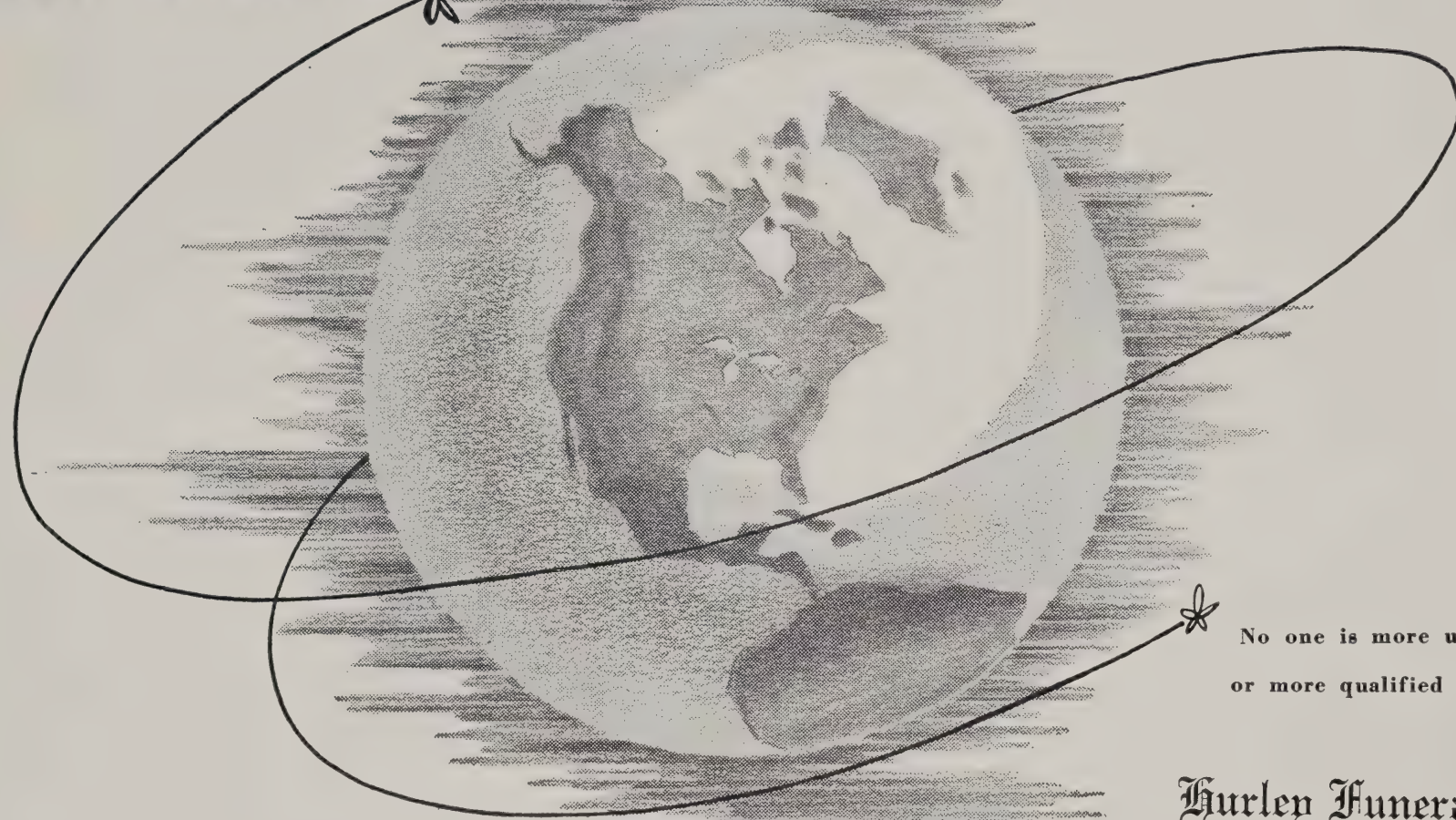
AND PAY TRIBUTE
TO THE HARDY PIONEERS OF
ATASCOSA COUNTY
IN THIS CENTENNIAL YEAR
OF 1956

Texas Osage Cooperative
Royalty Pool, Inc.

1001 South Texas Building

San Antonio, Texas

**IN ALL
THE WORLD**



No one is more understanding
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PLEASANTON, TEXAS

Centennial Greetings

. . . TO OUR SISTERS OF THE SWISH

. . . AND OUR CENTENNIAL BELLES

Have fun in your 1956 Centennial Bonnets and Dresses
and then after our Centennial celebration—buy your new
Fall Wardrobe from us for the beginning of our new
century.

In Atascosa County

PAGE'S

Pleasanton

Poteet



Jourdan High School shortly after Armistice Day, 1918. The three-story building was later reduced to two stories. In 1954 it was demolished completely.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO ATASCOSA COUNTY

In This

CENTENNIAL YEAR

1956

STABILOIL COMPANY

Adolphus Tower

Dallas, Texas

W. L. PICKENS

Adolphus Tower

Dallas, Texas

R. L. WHELOCK

State Nat'l Bank Bldg.

Corsicana, Texas

Congratulations to the Atascosa Centennial



San Antonio, Texas

"In The Hands of a Friend from Beginning to End"

WELCOME!! ALL BROTHERS OF THE
BRUSH AND SISTERS OF THE
SWISH — YOU ALL COME!!

PHIL'S SERVICE STATION

PHIL J. CIOMPERLIK, Prop.
Jourdanton, Texas

IF IT'S WELDING
WE DO IT!

KELLYS WELDING SERVICE

Jourdanton, Texas

We Congratulate
ATASCOSA COUNTY
On This Centennial

HEADRICK'S SERVICE STATION

Charlotte, Texas

WE PAY TRIBUTE TO THOSE
PIONEERS IN WHOSE FOOTSTEPS
WE FOLLOW.

MACHEN GROCERY

Charlotte, Texas

Congratulations! Atascosa County
For 100 Years of Progress!

ALVIN'S GARAGE

Authorized Ford Sales & Service
Jourdanton, Texas

THERE'S A SOLUTION
FOR EVERY PROBLEM . . .
STAY BEAUTIFUL!

SIBYL'S BEAUTY SHOP

Jourdanton, Texas

COMPLIMENTS

EDGE'S PACKAGE STORE

THE BEST FOR LESS
Pleasanton, Texas
Hiway 97

We are proud to be a part of
Atascosa County as it Celebrates
its Centennial in 1956.

NORMAN C. WILEY

Carpenter — Contractor
Building & Remodeling

P. O. Box 26

Phone 2491

Charlotte, Texas

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*To all those who have contributed
to the success of the Centennial
we wish to extend our thanks*



Atascosa County Centennial Association





